PDF 4 KURD

زمانی کوردیي سۆرانی
—Sorani Kurdish—
A Reference Grammar with Selected Readings

W. M. Thackston

PDF 4 KURD

PDF 4 KURD

CONTENTS

PHONOLOGY

The Phonology of Sorani Kurdish 1
Stress 3
The Writing System 4

SUBSTANTIVES

§ 1. The Absolute State 8
§ 2. The Indefinite State 8
§ 3. The Definite State 9
§ 4. Demonstratives 10
§ 5. Attributive Adjectives: The Open Adjectival *Izâfa* 10
§ 6. Possession: The *Izâfa* Construction 10
§ 7. Attributive Adjectives with Demonstratives and Definites: The Close *Izâfa* Construction 11
§ 8. Attributive Adjectives with Definite Nouns 12
§ 9. Synopsis of Noun States 13
§ 10. Personal Pronouns 15
§ 10.1 Possessive Pronouns 15
§ 11. Enclitic -*îsh* 16
§ 12. Cardinal Numbers 17
§ 12.1 Ordinal Numbers 18
§ 12.2 Days of the Week 18
§ 12.3 Months of the Year and the Kurdish Calendar 18
§ 13. Comparative and Superlative Adjectives 19
§ 14. Prepositions, Postpositions, Circumpositions 20
§ 14.1. Preposed Pronominal Prepositional Complements 22

PDF 4 KURD

THE VERB

§ 15. Present Copulas 25
§ 16. ‘To Have’ 26
§ 17. The Present Habitual/Progressive 26
§ 18. Verbs in *-awa* 29
§ 19. The Present Subjunctive 30
§ 20. ‘To Want’ 34
§ 21. ‘To Be Able’ 35
§ 22. ‘To Remember’ 36
§ 23. Pronominal Objects of Verbs 37
§ 24. The Imperative 38
§ 25. The Simple Past (Intransitive) 40
§ 26. The Past Habitual/Progressive (Intransitive) 41
§ 27. The Simple Past (Transitive): The Ergative 42
§ 27.1 The Ergative in South Sorani 45
§ 27.2 Pronouns as Logical Objects of Past Transitive Verbs 46
§ 27.3 Pronominal Prepositional Complements with Agent Affixes 48
§ 27.4 Displacement of a Possessive Pronoun by a Preposed Prepositional Complement 51
§ 28. The Perfect Active Participle 53
§ 29. The Present Perfect Tense (Intransitive) 53
§ 29.1 The Present Perfect Tense (Transitive) 54
§ 30. The Past Perfect Tense (Intransitive) 55
§ 30.1 The Past Perfect Tense (Transitive) 56
§ 31. The Past Subjunctive 57
§ 32. The Irrealis Mood 60
§ 33. The Past Conditional 61
§ 34. The Passive Voice 63
§ 34.1 The Past Passive Participle 65
§ 35. Postposed Verbal Complements 66
§ 36. Factitive Verbs 68

PDF 4 KURD

OTHER SYNTACTICAL FEATURES

§ 37. Expressions of Temporal Duration 70
§ 38. Subordinating Conjunctions 71
§ 39. Relative Clauses 72
§ 40. Directional Nouns in -*è* 75
§ 41. Orthographic Peculiarities of Sorani Kurdish 75
§ 42. Vowel Contractions...77

Verb Tenses and Moods 78
Synopsis of Tenses and Moods 85
Conditional Sentence Types..86
Conversion Table for the Sorani and Kurmanji Alphabets 88

READINGS..91
(۱) گۆڤاری سروە، «پەندی پێشینیان» 92
(۲) محەمەد رەمەزانی، «خوێن و سیکەتۆرە» 101
(۳) محەمەد حوسێن پاسیار، «رێوی تەمبەڵ»..102
(۴) ئەنوەر رەوشەن، «بولبول و ئێوارەی ماتەم» 104
(۵) جەلال مەلەکشا، «گاشە بەرد» 108
(۶) یوسف بابەکری، «باسی ئەدەبی: پەخشان» 120
(۷) فەرهاد شاکەلی، «تەرم» 122
(۸) محمد حەمە صاڵح تۆفیق، «پاشای حەوت کوڕە»..129
(۹) محمد حەمە صاڵح تۆفیق، «ئەحمەد پاشا»..142
(۱۰) هەژار، «من و مەم و زینی خانی»..149
(۱۱) کوردسات..156
(۱۲) خەبات 159
(۱۳) نێچیرڤان بارزانی بۆ The New Anatolian 160

Kurdish–English Vocabulary 163

PDF 4 KURD

PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD
PDF 4 KURD
PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD

PREFACE

KURDISH BELONGS to the Western Iranian group of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family. The two principal branches of modern literary Kurdish are (1) Kurmanji, the language of the vast majority of Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the area designated by Kurdish nationalists as “North Kurdistan,” with an estimated fifteen to seventeen million speakers, and (2) Sorani, the language of most Kurds in Iraq (four to six million speakers) and Iran (five to six million speakers), the area designated as “South Kurdistan.” Although the two are closely related, Kurmanji and Sorani are not mutually intelligible and differ at the basic structural level as well as in vocabulary and idiom. Since Kurdish is fairly closely related to and has been massively influenced by Persian, the dominant literary and cultural language of the area for the last millennium, Kurdish is best approached with a basic knowledge of Persian.

While Kurmanji is still far from being a unified, normalized, or standardized language, Sorani has been the second official language of Iraq since the creation of that country after World War I and has many decades of literary activity behind it. In Iran, Kurdish has never been accorded official status, but in Iranian Kurdistan there has been noteworthy publication in Kurdish, particularly after the Iranian revolution. The area in which Sorani is spoken in Iran is more or less the region designated as Kurdistan. Outside of that area, south to Kermanshah and east as far as Bijar, the language is known as Gorani, or South Sorani, which is a *Mischsprache* that is basically Persian in structure but Kurdish in vocabulary.

The readings, chosen to give samples of a broad range of prose writing ranging from fairy tales to the internet, are provided with running glosses beneath the texts, and the glosses in the readings are also contained in the Kurdish–English vocabulary at the end of the book. Words considered to be absolutely basic vocabulary are not glossed in the notes, since it is assumed that these words either are known already or will be actively acquired by looking them up in the vocabulary in the back. Generally words are not glossed more than once in the notes because any word encountered a second

PDF 4 KURD

time should be learned actively. Words are glossed after the first instance only if they are considered rare enough to warrant being ignored for acquisition. Because Sorani Kurdish dictionaries are not easily obtainable, I have made the vocabulary as large as possible. It contains around 4,000 words, which represent a basic working vocabulary for the language.

For dictionaries of Sorani, the following may be consulted:

Hazhâr, *Hanbâna borîna: Farhang-i Kurdî–Fârsî*, 2 vols. Tehran: Surûsh, 1368 [1989]. With definitions in both Kurdish and Persian, this is by far the most comprehensive dictionary of Kurdish, but Kurmanji words are also included without any differentiation. Hazhâr uses وٗ instead of وو for *û*; otherwise the orthography is standard.

McCarus, Ernest N. *Kurdish–English Dictionary, Dialect of Sulaimania*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1967.

Qazzaz, Shafiq. *The Sharezoor Kurdish–English Dictionary*. Erbil: Aras, 2000.

Sulaymân, Mustafâ. *Ferhengî zarawey zanistî*. Sulaymani, 2001.

Wahby, Taufiq. *A Kurdish–English Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966.

An on-line Sorani dictionary is available at www.namonet.com.

PDF 4 KURD

The Phonology of Sorani Kurdish

Vowels:

î	*û*
i	*u*
e	*o*
a	*â*

î	is like the ‘ee’ in ‘beet’ and ‘tree,’ International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) [i], as in *hîch* [hitʃ] ‘nothing.’
i	is like the ‘i’ in ‘bit,’ IPA [ɪ], as in *girtin* [gɪrˈtɪn] ‘to take’
e	is like the ‘ai’ in ‘bait,’ IPA [e], without the *y*-offglide of English, as in *hez* [hez] ‘power’
a	is like the ‘a’ in ‘bat,’ IPA [æ], as in *tanaka* [tænæˈkæ] ‘tin can,’ except (1) in the sequence *aw,* where it is pronounced [ə], (2) when it is followed in the same syllable by *y*, in which case it is pronounced [ə], as in *tanakakay* [tænækæˈkəy] ‘his tin can,’ and (3) when it is followed by *y* but not in the same syllable, in which case it is pronounced [ɛ], as in *tanakayek* [tænæˈkɛyek] ‘a tin can.’
û	is like the ‘oo’ in ‘boot,’ IPA [u], as in *gûr* [guɾ] ‘calf’
u	is like the ‘u’ in ‘put’ and ‘pull,’ IPA [ʊ], as in *gurg* [gʊɾg] ‘wolf’
o	is like the ‘oa’ in ‘boat,’ IPA [o], without the *w*-offglide of English, as in *goř* [gor] ‘level’
â	is like the ‘a’ in ‘father’ and ‘balm,’ IPA [ɑ], as in *gâ* [gɑ] ‘cow’

Consonants:

	bilabial	labiodental	dental/alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	glotto-pharyngeal
plosive	*p*		*t*		*k*	*q*	
	b		*d*		*g*		
fricative		*f*	*s*		*kh*		*ḥ, h*
		v	*z*		*gh*		

PDF 4 KURD

		sh	*ch*
		zh	*j*
nasal	*m*	*n*	
approximants	*w*		*y*
flap, trill		*r, ř*	
laterals		*l*	*ł*

b	is like the ‘b’ of English, IPA [b]
ch	is like the ‘ch’ in ‘church,’ IPA [tʃ]
d	is like the ‘d’ of English, IPA [d]
f	is like the ‘f’ of English, IPA [f]
g	is the hard ‘g’ of English in ‘go’ and ‘get,’ IPA [g]
gh	is a voiced velar fricative, IPA [ɣ], like the Arabic غ; it rarely occurs word-initially and is usually replaced by *kh* in borrowed words (*e.g.* غم *gham* ‘grief’ > *kham)*; word-finally it is often in free variation with *kh*.
h	is like the ‘h’ of English, IPA [h]
ḥ	where it exists (according to regional dialect: fairly generalized in Iraq, rare in Iran), it is a voiceless pharyngeal fricative, IPA [ħ], like the Arabic ح ; otherwise it is not distinguished from *h*
j	is like the ‘j’ in ‘judge,’ IPA [dʒ]
k	is like the ‘k’ of English, IPA [k]
kh	is a voiceless velar fricative, IPA [x], like the *ch* in German *Bach* and the Arabic خ
l	is a liquid ‘l’ [l] as in Persian, like the ‘l’ in ‘lee’
ł	is like the dull ‘l’ of English in ‘all’ [ʎ]; in some areas it is a lateral fricative, like the *ll* of Welsh [ɬ]; it does not occur word-initially (cf. *gul* ‘leper’ with *guł* ‘flower’ and *chil* ‘forty’ with *chił* ‘stalk’)
m	is like the ‘m’ of English, IPA [m]
n	is like the ‘n’ of English, IPA [n]

PDF 4 KURD

p	is like the ‘p’ of English, IPA [p]
q	is a voiceless uvular stop, like the Arabic ق, IPA [q]
r	is a flap as in Persian and Italian, IPA [ɾ]; does not occur word-initially
ř	and *rr* are trills, IPA [r], like the *rr* of Spanish (cf. *khor* [xoɾ] ‘sun’ with *khoř* [xor] ‘blood’ and *bar* [bæɾ] ‘breast’ with *bař* [bær] ‘rug’); all initial *r*’s are trilled (verbal stems beginning with *r* are trilled regardless of prefixes, as in *řoysht* ‘he went’ and *dařoysht* ‘he was going’)
s	is like the ‘s’ of English in ‘see,’ IPA [s]
sh	is like the ‘sh’ in ‘ship,’ IPA [ʃ]
t	is like the ‘t’ of English, IPA [t]
v	is like the ‘v’ of English, IPA [v], but it is of rare occurrence in Sorani
w	is like the English ‘w’ except before *e, i,* and *î*, when it is a close back unrounded semivowel, IPA [ɯ], like the ‘u’ in French *cuire* and *huit*.
y	is like the ‘y’ of English, IPA [j]
z	is like the ‘z’ of English, IPA [z]
zh	is like the French ‘j’ and the ‘g’ in ‘beige,’ IPA [ʒ]

Stress. All nouns and adjectives are stressed on the final syllable: *tanaká* [tænæˈkæ] ‘tin can,’ *gawrá* [gəwˈɾæ] ‘big’. When enclitic endings are added, stress remains on the final syllable of the base word: *tanakáyèk* [tænæˈkɛyek] ‘a tin can,’ *tanakáyèk i gawrá* [tænæˈkɛyeki gəwˈræ] ‘a big tin can.’ The definite suffix is stressed: *tanakayaká* [tænækɛyæˈkæ] ‘the tin can.’

The hierarchy of stress in verbs is as follows:

(1) The negative prefixes *na-* and *nâ-*, as in *náchû* [ˈnætʃu] ‘he didn’t go’ and *nâ´che* [ˈnɑtʃe] ‘he doesn’t go.’

(2) Preverbs like *war-*, *hał-*, and *dâ-*, as in *wárgeřâm* [ˈwæɾgerɑm] ‘I returned,’ *háłdagirim* [ˈhæɫdægɪɾɪm] ‘I pick up,’ and *dâ´nîshtim* [ˈdɑniʃtɪm] ‘I sat down.’

PDF 4 KURD

(3) The modal prefixes *(d)a-* and *bi-* as in *dábînim* [ˈdæbinɪm] ‘I see’ and *bíbînim* [ˈbɪbinɪm] ‘let me see.’

(4) When there are no prefixes on finite verbal forms, the final syllable of the verb stem is stressed, as in *hâ´tin* [ˈhɑtɪn] ‘they came’ and *kírdibetmânawa* [ˈkɪɾdɪbetmɑnəwæ] ‘that we have opened it.’

(5) The infinitive is stressed on the final syllable, as in *hâtín* [hɑˈtɪn] ‘to come.’

The Writing System

The Kurdo-Arabic alphabet consists of the following letters:

ا	*alif*	د	*d*	(ض	*z)*	گ	*g*
ب	*b*	(ذ	*z)*	(ط	*t)*	ل	*l*
پ	*p*	ر	*r*	(ظ	*z)*	ڵ	*ł*
ت	*t*	ڕ	*ř*	ع	‘	م	*m*
(ث	*s)*	ز	*z*	غ	*gh*	ن	*n*
ج	*j*	ژ	*zh*	ف	*f*	و	*w*
چ	*ch*	س	*s*	ڤ	*v*	ه	*h*
ح	*ḥ*	ش	*sh*	ق	*q*	ی	*y*
خ	*kh*	(ص	*s)*	ك	*k*	ئ	*hamza*

Letters in parentheses are not normally used. Some writers occasionally “import” these specifically Arabic letters for use in words borrowed from Arabic, even though the vowels are written in the Kurdish manner. Thus, *khâsatan* ‘especially’ (from the Arabic خاصّةً), usually written خاسەتەن, may be written خاصەتەن; and *khat* ‘line’ (from the Arabic خط), usually written خەت, may be written as خەط. There are very few doubled consonants in Kurdish; the few that exist are written with a double consonant, as in شاڵڵا *shâłłâ* ‘God willing.’ *‘Ayn* (ع) is almost always retained in Arabic words (مەعنا *ma‘nâ* ‘meaning’ and عەرەب *‘arab* ‘Arab’); in Iraq the *‘ayn* is usually pronounced as it is in Arabic; in Iran it is either a glottal stop or a prolonga-

PDF 4 KURD

tion of a preceding vowel, as in Persian.

The vowels are written as follows:

a is written (1) word-initially with *hamza* + final *h,* as in ئەم *am*
(2) elsewhere with a final (or alone) *h*, as in بەر *bar* and دەم *dam*

â is written (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *alif,* as in ئاوات *âwât,* or, alternatively, with *alif-madda*, as in آوات *âwât*
(2) elsewhere with an *alif*, as in بار *bâr*

e is written (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *y* with a caret above, as in ئێوارە *ewâra*
(2) elsewhere with *y* with a caret above, as in بێر *ber*

i is written (1) word initially as *alif,* as in امڕو *imřo*
(2) elsewhere *i* is not indicated in the writing system, as in بر *bir* and گرتن *girtin*; it is the only vowel not indicated in the writing system (see below)

î is written (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *y,* as in ئیتر *îtir*
(2) elsewhere with *y*, as in بیر *bîr*

o is written (1) word-initially as *hamza* + *vâv* with a caret above, as in ئۆدە *oda*
(2) elsewhere with a *wâw* with a caret above, as in بۆر *bor*

u is written (1) word-initially as *hamza* + *vâv,* as in ئومێد *umed;* alternatively initial *u* can be written as *alif* + *vâv*, as in اومێد *umed*
(2) elsewhere with one *wâw*, as in بور *bur*

û is written with two *wâw*s, as in بوور *bûr*.

The vowel *i* of the *izâfa* is written as *y* (ی) attached directly to words ending in letters that join to the left. Thus, *kurdakân i kurdistân i ʻerâq* (‘the Kurds of Iraqi Kurdistan’) is written: کوردەکانی کوردستانی عێراق. When added to words ending in letters that do not join to the left, the *y* is written in the alone form, as in *tanaka i gawraká,* written تەنەکەی گەورەکە.

The trilled *ř* is indicated by a caret over or under the *r*, as in فڕۆکە or فڕۆکە *fiřoka* ‘airplane.’ Since all initial *r*’s are trilled, they are rarely marked.

PDF 4 KURD
PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD

The “dull *l*,” called *lâm i qaław* “fat l” in Kurdish, is indicated by a caret over the *l*, as in قەڵو *qaław*.

The only illogicality in the system lies in the writing of the sequence *ye*, which is written یە, as though it were *ya*, as in *nâmayek*, written نامەیەك, and دایە *dâyè*. For this and other orthographic peculiarities and variants, see §41.

The letters with their various initial, medial, final, and alone shapes are as follows (those marked with an asterisk do not connect to the left and are followed by an initial or alone form):

NAME	ALONE	FINAL	MEDIAL	INITIAL
*alif**	ا	ـا	ـا	ا
alif + *madda* (initial only)				آ
hamza	ء	ء	ـئـ	ئـ
b	ب	ـب	ـبـ	بـ
p	پ	ـپ	ـپـ	پـ
t	ت	ـت	ـتـ	تـ
s	ث	ـث	ـثـ	ثـ
j	ج	ـج	ـجـ	جـ
ch	چ	ـچ	ـچـ	چـ
ḥ	ح	ـح	ـحـ	حـ
kh	خ	ـخ	ـخـ	خـ
*d**	د	ـد	ـد	د
*z**	ذ	ـذ	ـذ	ذ
*r**	ر	ـر	ـر	ر
*ř**	ڕ	ـڕ	ـڕ	ڕ
*z**	ز	ـز	ـز	ز
*zh**	ژ	ـژ	ـژ	ژ
s	س	ـس	ـسـ	سـ
sh	ش	ـش	ـشـ	شـ
s	ص	ـص	ـصـ	صـ
z	ض	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ
t	ط	ـط	ـطـ	طـ

PDF 4 KURD

z	ظ	ـظ	ـظـ	ظـ
‘	ع	ـع	ـعـ	عـ
gh	غ	ـغ	ـغـ	غـ
f	ف	ـف	ـفـ	فـ
v	ڤ	ـڤ	ـڤـ	ڤـ
q	ق	ـق	ـقـ	قـ
k	ك	ـك	ـکـ	کـ
g	گ	ـگ	ـگـ	گـ
l	ل	ـل	ـلـ	لـ
ł	ڵ	ـڵ	ـڵـ	ڵـ
m	م	ـم	ـمـ	مـ
n	ن	ـن	ـنـ	نـ
*w**	و	ـو	ـو	و
h	ه	ـه	ـهـ	هـ
y	ی	ـی	ـیـ	یـ

Vowels:

a	ە	ـە	ـە	ئە
â	ا	ـا	ـا	ئا
e	ێ	ـێ	ـێـ	ئێـ
i	–	–	–	ا
î	ی	ـی	ـیـ	ئیـ
o	ۆ	ـۆ	ـۆ	ئۆ
u	و	ـو	ـو	ئو
û	وو	ـوو	ـوو	ئوو

PDF 4 KURD

THE GRAMMAR OF SORANI KURDISH

SUBSTANTIVES

§ 1. The Absolute State of the Noun. A Kurdish noun in the absolute state, i.e. without any ending of any kind, gives a generic sense of the noun. It is also the "lexical" form of the noun, i.e. the form in which a noun is given in a vocabulary list or dictionary. The absolute state is normally used for the generic sense, as in قاوە ڕەشە *qâwa rash a* 'coffee is black' and وەفر سپییە *wafr spî a* 'snow is white'.

§ 2. The Indefinite State. The sign of the indefinite singular ('a, any, some') is an unstressed enclitic *-(y)èk* (i.e. ـێك *-èk* after consonants and ـیەك *-yèk* after vowels) added to the end of the absolute singular noun.

پیاو *pyâw* 'man' >	پیاوێك *pyâw**èk*** 'a man'
ڕۆژ *rozh* 'day' >	ڕۆژێك *rozh**èk*** 'a day'
دەرگا *dargâ* 'door' >	دەرگایەك *dargâ**yèk*** 'a door'
نامە *nâma* 'letter' >	نامەیەك *nâma**yèk*** 'a letter'

Among the modifiers that demand that a following noun be indefinite are چەند *chand* 'a few,' هەموو *hamû* 'every,' چ *chi* 'what?,' and هەر *har* 'each,' as in

چەند پیاوێك *chand pyâw**èk***	a few men
هەموو ڕۆژێك *hamû rozh**èk***	every day
چ لاپەڕەیەك *chi lâpařa**yèk**?*	what page?
هەر لایەك *har lâ**yèk***	each direction

The construction …*i zor* 'many, a lot of' also takes a preceding indefinite singular noun:

PDF 4 KURD

کوردێکی زۆر *kurd**èk i zor***	a lot of Kurds
پیاوێکی زۆر *pyâw**èk i zor***	many men

The indefinite plural is formed by adding *-ân* to the absolute singular. If the absolute singular ends in *-â*, the indefinite plural ending is *-yân*. Nouns with absolute singulars ending in *-a*, like *nâma*, form the indefinite plural by dropping the final *-a* and adding *-ân*.

پیاو *pyâw* >	پیاوان *pyâw**ân*** (some) men
دەرگا *dargâ* >	دەرگایان *dargâ**yân*** (some) doors
نامە *nâma* >	نامان *nâm**ân*** (some) letters
ئەمەریکی *amarîkî* >	ئەمەریکیان *amarîkî**ân*** (some) Americans

§ 3. The Definite State. Singular nouns are made definite (‘the’) by adding the suffix *-(a)ká* (i.e. *-aká* after consonants, *u, e,* and *î*, and *-ká* after the vowels *a, â,* and *o*). The combination *îaká* often results in a vowel contraction to *eká*, sometimes so spelled in Kurdish.

پیاو *pyâw* >	پیاوەکە *pyâw**aká*** the man
ئەمەریکی *amarîkî* >	ئەمەریکییەکە *amarîkî**aká*** the American
کتاوی *ktâwî* >	کتاویەکە *ktâwî**aká*** the student
دێ *de* >	دێەکە *de**aká*** the village
دەرگا *dargâ* >	دەرگاکە *dargâ**ká*** the door
نامە *nâma* >	نامەکە *nâma**ká*** the letter

The definite plural is made by adding *(a)kân* to the singular, i.e. by changing the *-(a)ká* of the definite singular to *-(a)kân*.

پیاوەکە *pyâwaká* >	پیاوەکان *pyâw**akân*** the men
کتاویەکە *ktâwîaká* >	کتاویەکان *ktâwî**akân*** the students
دەرگاکە *dargâká* >	دەرگاکان *dargâ**kân*** the doors
نامەکە *nâmaká* >	نامەکان *nâma**kân*** the letters

PDF 4 KURD

§ 4. Demonstratives. As attributive adjectives the demonstratives (‘this, that’) envelop the nouns they modify. ‘This’ is ـه(یــــ)...ئــــهم *am…(y)á*, and ‘that’ is ـه(یــ)...ئــهو *aw…(y)á*. The forms of nouns enveloped by demonstratives are the absolute singular and the indefinite plural.

پیاو *pyâw* > ئەم پیاوە ***am*** *pyâw**á*** this man, ئەم پیاوانە ***am*** *pyâwân**á*** these men

کتاوی *ktâwî* > ئەم کتاویە ***am*** *ktâwî**á*** this student, ئەم کتاویانە ***am*** *ktâwîân**á*** these students

دەرگا *dargâ* > ئەم دەرگایە ***am*** *dargâ**yá*** this door, ئەم دەرگایانە ***am*** *dargâyân**á*** these doors

نامە *nâma* > ئەو نامەیە ***aw*** *nâma**yá*** that letter, ئەو نامانە ***aw*** *nâmân**á*** those letters

The demonstrative pronouns are ئــەمــە *amá* ‘this,’ ئــەمــانــە *amâná* ‘these,’ ئــەوە *awá* ‘that,’ and ئەوانە *awâná* ‘those.’

§ 5. Attributive Adjectives: The Open Adjectival *Izâfa*. The attributive adjective following a noun that is (1) absolute singular, (2) indefinite singular, or (3) indefinite plural is linked to the noun by the unstressed vowel *i* (called the *izâfa* vowel). The *izâfa* is written as ی added directly to words that end in joining letters or an alone ی after non-joining letters.

هۆتێلی باش	*hotel i bâsh*	good hotel[1]
هۆتێلێکی باش	*hotelèk i bâsh*	a good hotel
هۆتێلانی باش	*hotelân i bâsh*	(some) good hotels
نامەی درێژ	*nâma i drezh*	long letter
نامەیەکی درێژ	*nâmayèk i drezh*	a long letter
نامانی درێژ	*nâmân i drezh*	(some) long letters

§ 6. Possession: The *Izâfa* Construction. The same *izâfa* vowel *i* links the two parts of a possessive construction and is equivalent to the English ‘of.’

کتاویەکانی قوتابخانەیەك	*ktâwîakân i qutâbkhânayèk*	the students of a school

---

[1] This also has the generic sense, as in “good hotels are hard to find” or “a good hotel is hard to find.” It contrasts with the following indefinite *hotelek i bâsh*, as in “there is a good hotel on the corner.”

PDF 4 KURD

دێەکەی ئەو پیاوە	*deaká i aw pyâwá*	that man’s village
ماڵەکانی پیاوەکانی دێەکە	*mâłakân i pyâwakân i deaká*	the houses of the men of the village
دەرگاکەی چایخانەکە	*dargâká i châykhânaká*	the door of the teahouse
دەرسەکانی ئەم کتاوە	*darsakân i am ktâwá*	the lessons of this book

§ 7. Attributive Adjectives with Demonstratives and Definites: The Close *Izâfa* Construction. When noun-adjective constructions are enveloped by the demonstratives or modified by the definite suffix, the linking vowel changes to *a*. The indefinite is, of course, excluded from this category.

هۆتێلە باشەکە	*{hotel a bâsh}aká*	the good hotel
ئەم هۆتێلە باشە	*am {hotel a bâsh}á*	this good hotel
پیاوە ئەمەریکیەکە	*{pyâw a amarîkî}aká*	the American man
ئەو پیاوە ئەمەریکیە	*aw {pyâw a amarîkî}á*	that American man
دەرسانە ئاسانەکە	*{darsân a âsân}aká*	the easy lessons
ئەم دەرسانە ئاسانە	*am {darsân a âsân}á*	these easy lessons
دەرسانە سەختەکە	*{darsân a sakht}aká*	the hard lessons
ئەو دەرسانە سەختە	*aw {darsân a sakht}á*	those hard lessons

If the noun in a close-*izâfa* construction ends in *-a*, the linking *a* is omitted, as in the following:

قوتابخانە ابتدائیەکان	*{qutâbkhâna ibtidâî}akân*[1]	the elementary schools
چایخانە گەورەکە	*{châykhâna gawra}ká*	the big teahouse
ئەم چایخانە گەورەیە	*am {châykhâna gawra}yá*	this big teahouse
نەتەوە یەکگرتووەکان	*{natawa yekgirtû}akân*	the United Nations

---

[1] *ibtidâîakân* may contract to ابتدائێکان *ibtidâekân*. For the contraction *îa* > *e*, see §42.

PDF 4 KURD

The envelopment of the demonstrative is extendable indefinitely and includes all matter immediately related to a demonstrative phrase.

بۆ توانینی ئەم دیاری کردنی جێگای میر گەورەیە	*bo twânîn i* ***am*** *{dyârî kirdin i jegâ i Mîr Gawra}****yá***	in order to enable this clarification of Mir Gawra’s position

Close *izâfa* constructions may be mixed with open *izâfa* constructions, as in the following:

چایخانە گەورەکەی سەر شەقامە سەرەکیەکەی شار	*{châykhâna gawraká} i sar {shaqâm a sarakîaká} i shâr*	the big teahouse on the major street in town

§ 8. Attributive Adjectives with Definite Nouns. Attributive adjectives modifying definite nouns also are linked to the noun by the *izâfa* vowel *i*, but the placement of the definite suffix, both singular and plural, is variable.

دەرسەکانی سەخت	*dars****akân*** *i sakht*	the hard lessons[1]
دەرسانە سەختەکە	*dars****ân*** *a sakht****aká***	
دەرسە سەختەکان	*dars a sakht****akân***	

Noun–adjective constructions in which the *izâfa* is embedded (the second and third examples above), where plural and definite suffixes fall at the end of the *izâfa* “string,” represent a very close connection, inseparable in the mind of the speaker, between noun and adjective.

---

[1] These three examples all have the same meaning in English, but they connote different aspects of noun-adjective linkage to the speaker of Kurdish. دەرسەکانی سەخت *darsakân i sakht* are the lessons (about which we already know), which happen to be hard, not necessarily in contrast to anything else. دەرسانە سەختەکە *darsân a sakhtaká* points out the specific lessons that are hard, as in دەرسی چوارەم و دهرسی حەوتەم دەرسانە سەختەکەی ئەم کتاوەن *dars i chwâram u dars i ẖawtam darsân a sakhtaká i am ktâwán* “lesson four and lesson seven are the hard lessons in this book.” دەرسە سەختەکان *dars a sakhtakân* is “the hard lessons” as opposed to, say, دەرسە ئاسانەکان *dars a âsânakân* “the easy lessons,” where the adjectives “hard” and “easy” are inextricably linked to “lessons,” i.e. we are considering “hard-lessons” vs. “easy-lessons.”

PDF 4 KURD

A good example is گوڵی سوور *guł i sûr* ‘red flower, rose.’ If the speaker is thinking of a flower that simply happens to be red, say a red carnation, the indefinite is گوڵێکی سوور *gułèk i sûr*, the definite is گوڵەکەی سوور *gułaká i sûr*, the indefinite plural is گوڵانی سوور *gułân i sûr*, and the definite plural is گوڵەکانی سوور *gułakân i sûr*. If by *guł i sûr* the speaker means the ‘rose,’ in which case *sûr* is inseparable from *guł*, the indefinite is گوڵە سوورێك *guł a sûrèk*, the definite گوڵە سوورەکە is *guł a sûraká*, the indefinite plural is گوڵە سووران *guł a sûrân*, and the definite plural is گوڵە سوورەکان *guł a sûrakân*. Similar close constructions are the following:

مێژوونووسە عەرەبەکان *mezhûnûs a ‘arabakân*	the Arab historians

Here we are considering only Arab historians, not historians who happen to be Arabs, who would be مێژوونووسەکانی عەرەب *mezhûnûsakân i ‘arab*.

قوتابیە کوردەکان *qutâbî a kurdakân*	the Kurdish students

Similarly here only students who are Kurdish are under consideration. The students who happen to be Kurdish, but not as an exclusive category, would be قوتابیەکانی کورد *qutâbîakân i kurd*.

§ 9. Synopsis of Noun States.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
absolute	کتاو **ktâw** ‘book’	—
	نامە **nâma** ‘letter’	—
indefinite	کتاوێك **ktâwèk**	کتاوان **ktâwân**
	نامەیەك **nâmayèk**	نامان **nâmân**
definite	کتاوەکە **ktâwaká**	کتاوەکان **ktâwakân**
	نامەکە **nâmaká**	نامەکان **nâmakân**
demon-strative	ئەم کتاوە **am ktâwá**	ئەم کتاوانە **am ktâwâná**
	ئەم نامەیە **am nâmayá**	ئەم نامانە **am nâmâná**

LOOSE-*IZÂFA* NOUN-ADJECTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

absolute	کتاوی گەورە **ktâw i gawra**	—
	نامەی درێژ **nâma i drezh**	—

PDF 4 KURD

indefinite	کتاوێکی گەورە	**ktâwèk i gawra**	کتاوانی گەورە	**ktâwân i gawra**
	نامەیەکی درێژ	**nâmayèk i drezh**	نامانی درێژ	**nâmân i drezh**
definite	کتاوەکەی گەورە	**ktâwaká i gawra**	کتاوەکانی گەورە	**ktâwakân i gawra**
	نامەکەی درێژ	**nâmaká i drezh**	نامەکانی درێژ	**nâmakân i drezh**
demonstrative	ئەم کتاوە گەورەیە	**am ktâw a gawrayá**	ئەم کتاوانە گەورەیە	**am ktâwân a gawrayá**
	ئەم نامە درێژە	**am nâma drezhá**	ئەم نامانە درێژە	**am nâmân a drezhá**

CLOSE-*IZÂFA* NOUN-ADJECTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

absolute	کتاوە گەورە	**ktâw a gawra**		—
	نامە درێژ	**nâma drezh**		—
indefinite	کتاوە گەورەیەك	**ktâw a gawrayèk**	کتاوە گەوران	**ktâw a gawrân**
	نامە درێژێك	**nâma drezhèk**	نامە درێژان	**nâma drezhân**
definite	کتاوە گەورەکە	**ktâw a gawraká**	کتاوە گەورەکان	**1. ktâw a gawrakân**
			کتاوانە گەورەکە	**2. ktâwân a gawraká**
	نامە درێژەکە	**nâma drezhaká**	نامە درێژەکان	**1. nâma drezhakân**
			نامانە درێژەکە	**2. nâmân a drezhaká**
demonstrative	ئەم کتاوە گەورەیە	**am ktâw a gawrayá**	ئەم کتاوە گەورانە	**am ktâw a gawrâná**
	ئەم نامە درێژە	**am nâma drezhá**	ئەم نامە درێژانە	**am nâma drezhâná**

§ 10. Personal Pronouns. The independent personal pronouns are as follows:

من	**min** I	ئێمە	**ema** we
تۆ	**to** you (sing.)	ئێوە	**ewa** you (pl.)
ئەو	**aw** he, she, it	ئەوان	**awân** they

The independent personal pronouns are used as (1) subjects of equational sentences:

PDF 4 KURD

من کوردم.	***Min** kurdim.*	**I**'m a Kurd.

(2) emphatic subjects of verbs and topics of topic-comment sentences:

ئەو هات، ئێوە نەهاتن.	***Aw** hât; **ewa** náhâtin.*	**He** came; **you** didn't.
من ئەوم بەلاوە گرنگ نیە.	***Min** awim balâwa giring niya.*	For **me**, that's not important.

and (3) emphatic possessors in an *izâfa* string:

کتاوەکەی من	*ktâwaká i **min***	*my* book
نیشتمانەکەی ئێمە	*nîshtimânaká i **ema***	*our* homeland

For pronominal objects of verbs, see §23.

§ 10.1. Possessive Pronouns. The normal possessive pronouns are unstressed enclitics added to the noun. They take the following forms:

AFTER CONSONANTS				AFTER VOWELS			
م	**´-im**	مان	**´-mân**	م	**´-m**	مان	**´-mân**
ت	**´-it**	تان	**´-tân**	ت	**´-t**	تان	**´-tân**
ی	**´-î**	یان	**´-yân**	ی	**´-y**	یان	**´-yân**

Examples of possessive pronouns with *kuř* 'son' and *pâra* 'money':

کوڕم	**kúřim**	کوڕمان	**kúřmân**	پارەم	**pârám**	پارەمان	**pârámân**
کوڕت	**kúřit**	کوڕتان	**kúřtân**	پارەت	**pârát**	پارەتان	**pârátân**
کوڕی	**kúřî**	کوڕیان	**kúřyân**	پارەی	**páráy**	پارەیان	**pâráyân**

The enclitic possessive pronouns may be added to the absolute (کوڕم *kúřim,* پارەم *pârám)*, the definite (کوڕەکەم *kuřakám,* پارەکەم *pârakám)*, or the indefinite (کوڕێکم *kúřekim,* پارەیەکم *pâráyekim)* forms of the noun. When added to the absolute, the noun has a figurative meaning; for actual, concrete meanings the definite form is used. For instance, money (پارە *pâra*) you can hold in your hand you would call پارەکەم *pârakám* 'my money,' while پارەم *pâram* is figurative, more like 'my wealth.' Someone who writes for a living can be said to earn his livelihood by means of قەڵەمی *qałamî* 'his pen,' but what he actually holds in his hand is قەڵەمەکەی *qałamakay* 'his pen.' Compare and contrast the following:

PDF 4 KURD

FIGURATIVE	ACTUAL
پارەت *pârat* your money, your wealth	پارەکەت *pârakát* your (real) money, your cash
کوڕم *kuřim* my son, “sonny”	کوڕەکەم *kuřakám* my (real) son
نانمان *nânmân* our livelihood	نانەکەمان *nânakámân* our bread
ماڵتان *mâłtân* your home	ماڵەکەتان *mâłakátân* your house

Exceptions to the general rule. Prominent exceptions to the general formation are the family members (باوك *bâwk* ‘father,’ دایك *dâyik* ‘mother,’ برا *birâ* ‘brother’ and خوەیشك *khwayshk* ‘sister’) and ناو *nâw* ‘name.’ When modified by pronominal possessives, these nouns are the reverse of the formation described above. براکەم *Birâkám* and خوەیشکەکەم *khwayshkakám* are used to address or refer to anyone other than one’s real brothers and sisters, who are called برام *birâm* and خوەیشکم *khwayshkim*. ناوی *Nâwî* means ‘his (real) name,’ as opposed to ناوەکەی *nâwakáy*, which means ‘his name’ in the sense of a label or sobriquet given to someone, not his actual name.

When possessives are added to the indefinite form of the noun, they mean ‘a … of mine,’ &c., e.g. کوڕێکم *kuřekim* ‘a son of mine,’ کتاوێکت *ktâwekit* ‘a book of yours,’ and قەڵەمێکی *qalamekî* ‘a pen of his,’ &c.

§ 11. Enclitic -*îsh*. The enclitic particle -*îsh* (‘too, also, even’ and often equivalent to a simple raised voice inflection in English) is added to nouns, noun–adjective phrases and pronouns. It cannot follow a finite verb form. When added to words ending in vowels, -*îsh* loses its own vowel in favor of the preceding vowel, becoming *’sh*. When added to words that have an enclitic pronoun attached, -*îsh* intervenes between the noun and pronoun.

من *min* I/me >	منیش *mín**îsh*** I/me too
ئێمە *ema* we/us >	ئێمەش *ema’**sh*** we/us too
باوکی *bâwkî* his father >	باوکیشی *bâwk**îshî*** his father too
پارەکەیان *pârakáyân* their money >	پارەکەشیان *pâraká’**sh**yân* their money too

PDF 4 KURD

رەفیقەکانم *rafîqakânim* my friends > رەفیقەکانیشم *rafîqakân**îsh**im* even my friends

§ 12. Cardinal Numbers. The cardinal numbers are as follows:

١ یەك	**1 yek**	٢٠ بیست	**20 bîst**
٢ دوو	**2 dû**	٢١ بیست و یەك	**21 bîst u yek**
٣ سێ	**3 se**	٢٢ بیست و دوو	**22 bîst u dû**
٤ چوار	**4 chwâr**	٢٣ بیست و سێ	**23 bîst u se, &c.**
٥ پێنج	**5 penj**	٣٠ سی	**30 sî**
٦ شەش	**6 shash**	٣١ سی و یەك	**31 sî u yek**
٧ حەوت	**7 ḥawt**	٣٢ سی و دوو	**32 sî u dû**
٨ هەشت	**8 hasht**	٣٣ سی و سێ	**33 sî u se, &c.**
٩ نۆ	**9 no**	٤٠ چل	**40 chil**
١٠ دە	**10 da**	٥٠ پەنجا	**50 panjâ**
١١ یانزە	**11 yânza**	٦٠ شەست	**60 shast**
١٢ دوانزە	**12 dwânza**	٧٠ حەفتا	**70 ḥaftâ**
١٣ سیانزە	**13 syânza**	٨٠ هەشتا	**80 hashtâ**
١٤ چواردە	**14 chwârda**	٩٠ نەوەد	**90 nawad**
١٥ پانزە	**15 pânza**	١٠٠ سەد	**100 sad**
١٦ شانزە	**16 shânza**	١٠٠٠ هەزار	**1000 hazâr**
١٧ حەڤدە	**17 ḥavda**	٢٠٠٠ دوو هەزار	**2000 dûhazâr**
١٨ هەژدە	**18 hazhda**	٣٠٠٠ سێ هەزار	**3000 sehazâr**
١٩ نۆزدە	**19 nozda**	٤٠٠٠ چوار هەزار	**4000 chwârhazâr, &c**

All words having to do with time and instance follow the cardinal number immediately in the absolute state:

دوو رۆژ *dû rozh*	two days
شەش مانگ *shash mâng*	six months
سەد ساڵ *sad sâł*	a hundred years

With other words the cardinal number is followed by a classifier, which is followed by the singular noun in the absolute state, as in Persian. The most common classifiers, and those which can be used, practically speaking, for almost anything are دانە *dâna* for things, نەفەر *nafar* for people, and سەر *sar*

PDF 4 KURD

for animate beings other than people.

چوار دانە کتاو	*chwâr dâna ktâw*	four books
پێنج نەفەر	*penj nafar*	five people
دە سەر مەڕ	*da sar mař*	ten sheep

§ 12.1 Ordinal numbers. The ordinal numbers are formed from the cardinal numbers plus the suffix *-(h)am*, as follows:

1st	یەکەم	**yekam**	7th	حەوتەم	**ḥawtam**
2nd	دووهەم	**dûham**	8th	هەشتەم	**hashtam**
3rd	سێهەم	**seham**	9th	نۆهەم	**noham**
4th	چوارەم	**chwâram**	10th	دەهەم	**daham**
5th	پێنجەم	**penjam**	11th	یانزەهەم	**yânzaham**
6th	شەشەم	**shasham**	12th	دوانزەهەم	**dwânzaham**, &c.

§ 12.2 Days of the Week and Months of the Year. The days of the week, made up mostly of cardinal numbers and شەممە *shamma,* are as follows:

شەممە	**shamma**	Saturday	چوارشەممە	**chwârshamma**	Wednesday
یەکشەممە	**yekshamma**	Sunday	پێنجشەممە	**penjshamma**	Thursday
دووشەممە	**dûshamma**	Monday	جومعە	**jum‘a**	Friday
سێشەممە	**seshamma**	Tuesday			

§ 12.3 Months of the Year and the Kurdish Calendar. The traditional months of the year, which correspond to the signs of the zodiac, are as follows:

بەهار **BAHÂR** SPRING	تاوستان **TÂWISTÂN** SUMMER
خاکەلێوە **khâkalêwa** Aries, March 21–April 20	پوشپەڕ **pushpař** Cancer, June 22–July22
بانەمەڕ **bânamař** or گولان **gulân** Taurus, April 21–May 21	گەلاوێژ **galâwezh** Leo, July 23–August 22
جۆزەردان **jozardân** Gemini, May 22–June 21	خەرمانان **kharmânân** Virgo, August 23–September 22

PDF 4 KURD

SUBSTANTIVES

خەزان	**XAZÂN** AUTUMN	زستان	**ZISTÂN** WINTER
رەزبەر	**razbar** Libra, September 23–October 22	بەفرانبار	**bafrânbâr** Capricorn, December 22–January 20
خەزەڵوەر	**khazałwar** or گەلارێزان **galâ-rezân** Scorpio, October 23–November 21	رێبەندان	**rebandân** Aquarius, January 21–February 19
سەرماوەز	**sarmâwaz** Sagittarius, November 22–December 21	رەشەمە	**rashama** Pisces, February 20–March 20

The names of the Western (Roman) months are as follows:

کانوونی دووهەم	**kânûn i dûham** January	تەمووز	**tamûz** July
شوبات	**shubât** February	ئاب	**âb** August
ئادار	**âdâr** March	ئەیلوول	**aylûl** September
نیسان	**nîsân** April	تشرینی یەکەم	**tishrîn i yekam** October
ئایار	**âyâr** May	تشرینی دووهەم	**tishrîn i dûham** November
حوزەیران	**ḥuzayrân** or حەزیران **ḥazîrân** June	کانوونی یەکەم	**kânûn i yekam** December

The recently instituted “Kurdish era” dates from 612 B.C., and the Kurdish year, like the Iranian, begins on نەورۆز *nawroz,* the vernal equinox, on or about March 21.

§ 13. Comparative and Superlative Adjectives. The comparative degree of the adjective is made by suffixing تر *-tir*, e.g. گەورە *gawra* ‘big’ > گەورەتر *gawratir* ‘bigger,’ گەرم *garm* ‘warm’ > گەرمتر *garmtir* ‘warmer,’ and زیا *zyâ* ‘much’ > زیاتر *zyâtir* ‘more.’ The preposition of comparison is لە *la*, as in the following examples.

ئەمڕۆ لە دوێنێ ساردترە.	*Amřo la dwene sârd**tir** a.*	Today is colder than yesterday.
ئەمە لەوە چاکترە.	*Ama l’ awa châk**tir** a.*	This is better than that.

The superlative degree is formed by suffixing ترین *-tirîn*. Superlative adjectives so formed precede the nouns they modify, as in

ساردترین رۆژ	*sârd**tirîn** rozh*	the coldest day

PDF 4 KURD

چاکترین شتان	*châk**tirîn** shitân*	the best things
جوانترین منداڵ	*jwân**tirîn** mindâł*	the most beautiful child

§ 14. Prepositions, Postpositions, Circumpositions. Certain prepositions, in particular the prepositions بە *ba* ‘in, at,’ دە *da* ‘to, in, into’ and لە *la* ‘by, to, in, at’ and ‘from,’ occur as circumpositions that envelop the complement, that is, the preposition itself marks the beginning of the prepositional phrase, and the end of the complement is marked by a postpositional element like *-awa, -(d)â,* or *-râ.*

لە دوورەوە	**la** *dûr**awa***	from afar
لە خۆەوە	**la** *kho**awa***	by itself, by oneself
دە ئەرزیدا	**da** *arẓî**dâ***	on the ground
لەخۆڕا	**la** *khor’**â***	by itself, by oneself
لە نیوەشەودا	**la** *nîwashaw**dâ***	in the middle of the night
لەم وەختەدا	***l’*** *am wakhtá**dâ***	at this time

The *d* of *dâ* is often dropped, particularly but not necessarily after *n*, giving -’*â*, as in

لە کوردستانا	**la** *Kurdistân’**â***	in Kurdistan
لە ناوچەی سۆرانا	**la** *nâwcha i Sorân’**â***	in the district of Soran
لە شوێنەوارەکانی ناحیەی خۆرمالیشا	**la** *shwenawârakân i nâḥiya i Khormâl’îsh’**â***	in the monuments of the Khormal region too
لە پاشا	**la** *pâsh’**â***	after(wards)
لەگەڵ منا	***lagał*** *min’**â***	with me

The postpositional element does not usually, in and of itself, add anything substantial to the meaning of the prepositional phrase, and most prepositions occur without the postpositional element without any significant change in meaning—with the important exception of *la…dâ* ‘in, at’ and *la…awa* ‘from,’ where the postpositions define the meaning of *la*. When *la* lacks the postpositional element, the meaning must be ascertained from con-

PDF 4 KURD

text.

Common prepositions and circumpositions:

بە	*ba* (پێ *pe*) to; with, by (instrumental)
بەبێ ...ـەوە	*babe* …*awa* without
بەدەم ...ـەوە	*badam* …*awa* along with, while, during
بەلای ...ـەوە	*balâ i* …*awa* in the opinion of
بەپێی	*bape i* according to
بەر لە	*bar la* before (temporal)
بەرەوی ...دا	*baraw i* …*dâ* in the direction of
بەرەوە	*baraw* in front of, toward
بەردەم	*bardam* before, in the face of
بێ	*be* without
بێجگە لە ...ـەوە	*bejiga la* …*awa* except for
بۆ	*bo* for
دە (تێ)	*da (te)* on, in
دەگەڵ	*dagał* with
دوای	*dwâ i* after
جگە لە	*jiga la* except for, aside from
لە (لێ)	*la (le)* in, from
لە ...(دا)	*la* …*(dâ)* in, at
لە ...ـەوە	*la* …*awa* from, than
لەبەر ...(دا)	*labar* …*(dâ)* in front of, before
لەبەر ...ـەوە	*labar* …*awa* because of
لەبەینی ...دا	*labayn i* …*dâ* between, among
لەبابەت ...ـەوە	*labâbat* …*awa* concerning, about
لەبارەی ...ـەوە	*labâra i* …*awa* concerning
لەباتی	*labât i* instead of
لەبن	*labin* beside
لەبرێتی	*labiret i* instead of
لەدەم ...دا	*ladam* …*dâ* behind
لەگەڵ ...(دا)	*lagał* …*(dâ)* with, together with
لەلایەن ...ـەوە	*lalâyan* …*awa* by (passive agent)
لەناو	*lanâw* within
لەنێو ...دا	*lanew* …*dâ* between, among
لەپێناوی ...دا	*lapenâw i* …*dâ* for the sake of
لەرەوی	*laraw i* with respect to
لەرێ ...ـەوە	*lare i* …*awa* by means of; for
لەرێگا ...دا	*laregâ* …*dâ* for the sake of
لەسەر	*lasar* on, on top of; according to
لەژێر ...دا	*lazher* …*dâ* under
ناو	*nâw* between, among
نێوان	*newân* between, among
پاش	*pâsh* after
پێش	*pesh* before (spacial)
وەك	*wak* like

§ 14.1. Preposed Pronominal Prepositional Complements. When pro-

PDF 4 KURD

nouns are complements of prepositions, they occur as enclitics unless they are to be particularly stressed. Pronominal compliments may be either preposed, i.e. added to the word preceding the preposition, or postposed, i.e. added to the preposition itself. When the following prepositions have enclitic complements, either pre- or postposed, they change their forms as follows:

به **ba** becomes پێ **pe**
دە **da** becomes تێ **te**
له **la** becomes لێ **le**
ـە **-à** becomes ێ **-è** (see §35 below)

All prepositions may take an independent pronoun as complement, as in له من *la min* ‘from me.’ If the pronoun is enclitic, the preposition changes to لێ *le*. When the enclitic pronoun is postposed the phrase is لێم *lem* ‘from me,’ and such phrases with postposed complements generally occur as tag phrases, i.e. falling after the verb, or at the end of a clause or sentence. When the prepositional phrase falls before the verb, or before the end of a clause or sentence, the enclitic pronoun is usually preposed as ـم لێ *-im le*, and the enclitic pronoun must be attached to some available preverbal matter.

For instance, in the sentence

پرسیارێك له رەفیقەكەی دەكا	*pirsyârèk* ***la rafîqakay*** *dákâ*	he asks a question **of his friend**

if *rafîqakay* is changed to a pronoun and the prepositional phrase is a tag, the sentence becomes

پرسیارێك دەكا لێی	*pirsyârèk dákâ* ***ley***	he asks a question **of him**

Normally, however, the prepositional phrase would have a preposed complement as

پرسیارێكی لێ دەكا	*pirsyârèk**î le** dákâ*	he asks a question **of him**

In the sentence

پرسیارێك له من دەكا	*pirsyârèk* ***la min*** *dákâ*	he asks a question **of me**

min ‘me’ is stressed, but it could be expressed with an enclitic pronoun (and

PDF 4 KURD

therefore not particularly stressed) as

پرسیارێکم لێ دەکا	*pirsyârèk**im le** dákâ*	he asks a question **of me**

It is important to realize that, for Kurdish speakers, the preposed enclitic pronoun is inextricably linked to the word to which it is attached—i.e., in the example above *pirsyârèkim* must be pronounced as one word. If there is any pause, the place for it is between the pronoun and the preposition.

Other examples are:

لەوان گوێ دەگرم > گوێیان لێ دەگرم	***l' awân** gwe dágirim > gwe**yân le** dágirim.*	I'm listening **to them**.
دەرگا بکەنەوە بۆ من > دەرگام بۆ بکەنەوە	*dargâ bikanawa **bo min** > dargâ**m bo** bikanawa.*	Open the door **for me**.
پووڵەکە لەو وەر دەگرێ > پووڵەکەی لێ وەر دەگرێ	*pûłaka **l' aw** war dagire > pûłaka**y le** war dagire.*	He takes the money **from him**.
قسە بکەم بۆ تۆ > قسەت بۆ بکەم	*qsa bikam **bo to** > qsa**t bo** bikam.*	Let me tell **you** a story.
ئەمە بڵێم بە تۆ > ئەمەت پێ بڵێم.	*ama bíłem **ba to** > ama**t pe** bíłem.*	Let me say this **to you**.
راوچییەك هێندەی نەماوە بگاتە رێوی > راوچییەك هێندەی نەماوە بیگاتێ.	*râwchîyèk henday namâwa bigât**à rewî** > râwchîyèk henday namâwa bi**y**gât**è**.*	A hunter almost came upon the fox > A hunter almost came **upon it**.
بەڵکوو شتێك بداتە من > بەڵکوو شتێکم بداتێ	*bałkû shitèk bidât**à min** > bałkû shitèk**im** bidât**è**.*	Maybe he'll give **me** something.
قسە دەکا دەگەڵ تۆ > قسەت دەگەڵ دەکا	*qsa dakâ **dagał to** > qsa**t** **dagał** dakâ.*	He speaks **with you**.
ئەو بە لای منەوە گرنگترە > ئەوم بەلاوە گرنگترە	*aw **balâ i minawa** giringtir a > aw**im balâwa** giringtir a.*	He is more important **to me**.

Similar is the construction involved in the idiom *khaw- le kawtin*—literally "for sleep to fall on (someone)"—'to fall asleep,' as in خەوی لێ کەوت *kha-*

PDF 4 KURD

wî le kawt ‘he fell asleep,’ خەوم لێ نەکەوت *khawim le nákawt* ‘I didn’t/couldn’t fall asleep.’ In this construction the person upon whom sleep falls is expressed by a pronominal enclitic on *khaw*-; if a 3rd-person “subject” is expressed, the resumptive construction is used, as in

کچەکان خەویان لێ کەوت	*kichakân khaw**yân le** kawt*	the girls fell asleep (lit., “the girls—sleep fell upon them”)

In all the previous examples, the preposed complement has preceded the preposition immediately, and generally this is the position it takes. However, a preposed complement separated from the preposition by other matter also occurs.

دەبێ خێوەتێکم لە دەرەوەی شار بۆ هەڵبدەن.	*Dabe khewatèk**im** la darawa i shâr **bo** hałbidan.*	They will have to pitch a tent **for me** outside the city.

For the special cases in which preposed postpositional complements displace enclitic possessive pronouns, see §27.4.

PDF 4 KURD

THE VERB

§ 15. Present Copulas. The present-tense copulas (‘am, is, are’) consist of the following enclitics:

POSTCONSONANTAL		POSTVOCALIC	
م **-im**	ین **-în**	م **-m**	ین **-yn**
ی، یت **-î(t)**	ن **-in**	ی، یت **-y(t)**	ن **-n**
ە **-a**	ن **-in**	یە **-ya**	ن **-n**

Examples are with کورد *kurd* ‘Kurdish’ and لێرە *l’era* ‘here’:

کوردم **kúrdim** ‘I am Kurdish’		کوردین **kúrdîn** ‘we are Kurdish’
کوردی **kúrdî** کردیت **kúrdît**	‘you are Kurdish’	کوردن **kúrdin** ‘you are Kurdish’
کوردە **kúrda** ‘s/he is Kurdish’		کوردن **kúrdin** ‘they are Kurdish’
لێرەم **l’erám** ‘I am here’		لێرەین **l’eráyn** ‘we are here’
لێرەی **l’eráy** لێرەیت **l’eráyt**	‘you are here’	لێرەن **l’erán** ‘you are here’
لێرەیە **l’eráya** ‘s/he is here’		لێرەن **l’erán** ‘they are here’

When the 3rd-person possessive enclitic *(-î/-y)* is followed by the 3rd-person copula *(-a),* a special form, -*yatî*, is used.

کتاوە. *ktâw-a.*	It’s a book.
کتاویەتی < کتاوی *ktâwî > ktâwyatî.*	his book > It’s his book.

The negative copula is formed on the base *níy-:*

نیم **níyim**	I am not	نیین **níyîn**	we are not
نیی، نییت **níyî(t)**	you are not	نین **níyin**	you are not
نیە **níya**	he/she/it is not	نین **níyin**	they are not

PDF 4 KURD

§ 16. ‘To Have.’ There is no verb in Kurdish equivalent to the English verb ‘to have.’ Kurdish expresses possession through the following formula:

noun possessed (indefinite or absolute) + possessive pronoun + *háya/níya* (present) or *hábû/hanábû* (past) or some form of the verb *bûn* ‘to be’

پرسیارێکم هەیە.	*Pirsyârèk**im háya***.	I have a question.
پرسیارێکم هەبوو.	*Pirsyârèk**im hábû***.	I had a question.
پارەت هەیە.	*Pâra**t háya***.	You have money.
کتاوێکی باشی نیە.	*Ktâwèk i bâsh**î níya***.	He doesn’t have a good book.
قەڵەمانمان هەبوو.	*Qałamân**mân hábû***.	We had some pens.
چەند کوڕتان هەیە؟	*Chand kuř**tân háya**?*	How many sons do you have?
زۆر پارەیان هەنەبوو.	*Zor pâra**yân hanábû***.	They didn’t have much money.
تاقە کوڕێکی دەبێ.	*Tâqa kuřek**î dabe***.	He has an only son.

§ 17. The Present Habitual/Progressive. The present habitual tense corresponds to the English simple present used for habitual action (‘I go’), progressive action (‘I’m going’), and the future (‘I’ll go, I’m going to go’[1]). It is formed from the present stem of the verb with a prefixed modal marker, which receives the stress, and the following suffixed personal endings.

CONSONANT STEMS		VOWEL STEMS	
-im	**-în**	**-m**	**-yn**
-î(t)	**-in**	**-y(t)**	**-n**
-e(t)	**-in**	**-â(t)/-(t)**	**-n**

The inherent *(t)* shown for the 2nd- and 3rd-persons singular is characteristic of literary Kurdish and seldom appears in the more informal spoken lan-

---

[1] Unlike Kurmanji, Sorani Kurdish has no future tense. The future may be expressed periphrastically (“I want to go,” e.g.), but normally the future sense is gained from context.

PDF 4 KURD

guage. It is recovered, however, when any enclitic or suffix is added to the verb form (see §18 below).

The modal prefix in Sulaymani Kurdish is ئـە *á*-; in most other dialects the modal prefix is دە *dá*-. Since otherwise verbs are conjugated identically in all varieties of Sorani Kurdish, the modal marker will be shown in this book as *dá*-, and examples will be given with *á*- or *dá*- as they occur in the texts from which they have been taken. Examples of the conjugation of verbs with present stems ending in a consonant are as follows (examples are -*ch*- ‘go’ and -*nûs*- ‘write’):

	چوون **chûn** ‘to go’		نووسین **nûsîn** ‘to write’	
1	دەچم **dáchim**	دەچین **dáchîn**	دەنووسم **dánûsim**	دەنووسین **dánûsîn**
2	دەچیت **dáchît** دەچی **dáchî**[1]	دەچن **dáchin**	دەنووسیت **dánûsît** دەنووسی **dánûsî**	دەنووسن **dánûsin**
3	دەچێت **dáchet** دەچێ **dáche**	دەچن **dáchin**	دەنووسێت **dánûset** دەنووسێ **dánûse**	دەنووسن **dánûsin**

In the negative, the modal marker *á*- is replaced by stressed *nâ´- (< na + a-).*

ناچم **nâchim**	ناچین **nâchîn**	نانووسم **nânûsim**	نانووسین **nânûsîn**
ناچیت **nâchî(t)**	ناچن **nâchin**	نانووسیت **nânûsî(t)**	نانووسن **nânûsin**
ناچێت **nâche(t)**	ناچن **nâchin**	نانووسێت **nânûse(t)**	نانووسن **nânûsin**

The negative of the modal marker *dá*- is *náda*-:

نەدەچم **nádachim**	نەدەچین **nádachîn**	نەدەنووسم **nádanûsim**	نەدەنووسین **nádanûsîn**
نەدەچیت **nádachî(t)**	نەدەچن **nádachin**	نەدەنووسیت **nádanûsî(t)**	نەدەنووسن **nádanûsin**
نەدەچێت **nádache(t)**	نەدەچن **nádachin**	نەدەنووسێت **nádanûse(t)**	نەدەنووسن **nádanûsin**

The negative of the Sulaymani habitual is occasionally used as an emphatic

---

[1] Henceforth the second- and third-person singular forms will normally be given as دەچیت *dáchî(t)* and دەچێت *dáche(t)*, with only the literary form in Arabic script but with both forms in transcription.

PDF 4 KURD

negative in dialects that normally have the negative in *náda-*, as in نانووسم *nânûsim* ‘I don’t ever write’ (which would then contrast with نەدەنووسم *nádanûsim* ‘I’m not writing’) and قەیدێ ناکا *qaydè nâkâ* ‘it doesn’t matter at all.’

For verbs with stems ending in a vowel, the personal endings combine with stems in *-a, -o*, and *-e* as follows (examples, کردن *kirdin* ‘to do,’ present stem کە *ka-*; ڕۆیشتن *royshtin* ‘to go away,’ present stem ڕۆ *ro-*; گەڕان *gařân* ‘to turn,’ present stem گەڕێ *gaře-*). The only forms that show changes in the stem vowel are the 3rd-person singular of the *-a-* and *-o-* stems, which change to *-â(t)* and *-wâ(t)* respectively.

A-STEMS

دەکەم **dákam**	دەکەین **dákayn**
دەکەیت **dákay(t)**	دەکەن **dákan**
دەکا(ت) **dákâ(t)**	دەکەن **dákan**

Common verbs conjugated in the present tense like *kirdin*/*ka-* are خستن *khistin*/ خە *kha-* ‘to throw,’ بردن *birdin*/ بە *ba-* ‘to carry,’ دان *dân*/ دە *da-* ‘to give,’ and گەیشتن *gayshtin*/ گە *ga-* ‘to reach.’

O-STEMS

دەڕۆم **dárom**	دەڕۆین **dároyn**
دەڕۆیت **dároyt**	دەڕۆن **dáron**
دەڕوا(ت) **dárwâ(t)**	دەڕۆن **dáron**

Like *ro-* are خواردن *khwârdin*/ خۆ *kho-* ‘to eat’ and شتن *shitin* (or شوردن *shurdin*)/ شۆ *sho-* ‘to wash.’

Verbs with present stems in *-e*, of which there are many, keep the theme vowel unchanged throughout the conjugation, and in the 3rd-person singular nothing is added other than the inherent *-t*.

E-STEMS

دەگەڕێم **dágařem**	دەگەڕێین **dágařeyn**
دەگەڕێی، دەگەڕێیت **dágařey(t)**	دەگەڕێن **dágařen**
دەگەڕێ، دەگەڕێت **dágaře(t)**	دەگەڕێن **dágařen**

Like *gaře-* are all verbs with infinitives ending in *-ân*.

PDF 4 KURD

One verb with a peculiar present tense is هاتن *hâtin* ‘to come’ (present stem یە *-ye*). In Sulaymani Kurdish the present stem, *ye-,* is regularly conjugated but without the modal marker *a-*. In most other dialects, particularly Iranian varieties, the present stem combines with the modal marker *da-* to become *de-*. The two variants are conjugated in the present as follows:

SULAYMANI		NON-SULAYMANI	
یەم **yem**	یەین **yeyn**	دێم **dem**	دێین **deyn**
یەی، یەیت **yey(t)**	یەن **yen**	دێی، دێیت **dey(t)**	دێن **den**
یە(ت) **ye(t)**	یەن **yen**	دێ(دێت) **de(t)**	دێن **den**

The negative is regularly conjugated on the stem *nâye-:*

نایەم **nâyem**	نایەین **nâyeyn**
نایەی، نایەیت **nâyey(t)**	نایەن **nâyen**
نایە، نایەت **nâye(t)**	نایەن **nâyen**

§ 18. Verbs in -*awa*. Many Kurdish verbs end with the suffix -*awa*, which has the following basic meanings: (1) ‘again, back, re-,’ as مان *mân* ‘to remain, be left’ > مانەوە *mânawa* ‘to be left behind,’ گۆتن *gotin*/وتن *witin* ‘to say’ > گۆتنەوە *gotinawa*/وتنەوە *witinawa* ‘to say again, repeat,’ گەڕان *gařân* ‘to turn’ > گەڕانەوە *gařânawa* ‘to return,’ (2) ‘open,’ as in کردنەوە *kirdinawa* ‘to open,’ and (3) to give a nuance of meaning to a verb, as سوور کردن *sûr-kirdin* ‘to make red’ > سوور کردنەوە *sûr-kirdinawa* ‘to sauté.’ This said, it should also be noted that -*awa* often adds nothing of any real lexical significance to the verb but gives a perfective aspect instead. All such verbs are regularly conjugated. With verbs ending in -*awa*, the -*awa* suffix is added after the personal ending, as in

دەرگا دەکەمەوە	*dargâ dakamawa*	I(’ll) open the door
دەگەڕێنەوە	*dágařenawa*	you/they(’ll) return

Second- and third-person forms always recover the *t* inherent in the personal endings before -*awa*, as in

دەگەڕێتەوە	*dágaře**t**awa*	he’ll return

PDF 4 KURD

دەکەیتەوە *dakay**t**awa*	you open

Full inflections of گەڕانەوە *gařânawa* and کردنەوە *kirdinawa* are as follows:

دەگەڕێمەوە **dágařemawa**	دەگەڕێینەوە **dágařeynawa**
دەگەڕێیتەوە **dágařeytawa**	دەگەڕێنەوە **dágařenawa**
دەگەڕێتەوە **dágařetawa**	دەگەڕێنەوە **dágařenawa**

دەکەمەوە **dákamawa**	دەکەینەوە **dákaynawa**
دەکەیتەوە **dákaytawa**	دەکەنەوە **dákanawa**
دەکاتەوە **dákâtawa**	دەکەنەوە **dákanawa**

§ 19. The Present Subjunctive. Like the present habitual, the present subjunctive is formed from the present stem of the verb and the personal suffixes. The modal marker for the subjunctive is *bí*-.

چوون **chûn**		کردنەوە **kirdinawa**	
بچم **bíchim**	بچین **bíchîn**	بکەمەوە **bíkamawa**	بکەینەوە **bíkaynawa**
بچی، بچیت **bíchî(t)**	بچن **bíchin**	بکەیتەوە **bíkaytawa**	بکەنەوە **bíkanawa**
بچێ، بچێت **bíche(t)**	بچن **bíchin**	بکاتەوە **bíkâtawa**	بکەنەوە **bíkanawa**

In compound verbs, the *bí*- prefix is optional, and when it is omitted the lack of a modal prefix identifies the verb as subjunctive. The modal prefix is regularly omitted with close compound verbs with prefixes like *war*- and *hał*-.

بانگ بکەم **bâng (bí)kam**	بانگ بکەین **bâng (bí)kayn**
بانگ بکەیت **bâng (bí)kay(t)**	بانگ بکەن **bâng (bí)kan**
بانگ بکا(ت) **bâng (bí)kâ(t)**	بانگ بکەن **bâng (bí)kan**

وەرگرم **wargirim**	وەرگرین **wargirîn**
وەرگری، وەرگریت **wargirî(t)**	وەرگرن **wargirin**
وەرگرێ، وەرگرێت **wargire(t)**	وەرگرن **wargirin**

When the preceding word ends in a vowel and the verb stem begins with a

PDF 4 KURD

single consonant, the vowel of the modal prefix may be elided, giving, e.g.,

وا بزانم	*wâ b'zânim*	I think (lit., if I know thus)
ئەم ووشەیە بنووسین	*am wushayá b'nûsîn*	let's write this word

This feature is not represented in the Kurdo-Arabic writing system.

The negative prefix for the subjunctive is *ná-*, which replaces *bí-* where it occurs.

نەچم **náchim**	نەچین **náchîn**	نەکەم **nákam**	نەکەین **nákayn**
نەچی، نەچیت **náchî(t)**	نەچن **náchin**	نەکەی، نەکەیت **nákay(t)**	نەکەن **nákan**
نەچێ، نەچێت **náche(t)**	نەچن **náchin**	نەکا(ت) **nákâ(t)**	نەکەن **nákan**

The present subjunctive of the verb *bûn* 'to be' is based on the stem *b-*. It occurs both with and without the *bí-* prefix with the following conjugations:

WITHOUT PREFIX		WITH PREFIX	
بم **bim**	بین **bîn**	ببم **bíbim**	ببین **bíbîn**
بی، بیت **bî(t)**	بن **bin**	ببی، ببیت **bíbî(t)**	ببن **bíbin**
بێ، بێت **be(t)**	بن **bin**	ببێ، ببێت **bíbe(t)**	ببن **bíbin**

When the verb means 'to be' the *bí-* prefix is omitted, but when it means 'to become' or is part of a compound verb like نیزین بوون *nîzîk-bûn* 'to get near' or ئاشکرا بوون *âshkirâ-bûn* 'to be revealed' in the following examples, the *bí-* prefix is present.

مرۆڤ نابێ ناهومێد بێ.	*Mirov nâbe nâhumed **be**.*	One should not be despondent.
نەیاندەوێرا نیزیکی ماڵەکانیان ببنەوە.	*Náyândawerâ nîzîk i mâłakânyân **bibinawa**.*	They didn't dare get near their houses.
دەترسێ رۆژێك بێت ئەم نهێنییە ئاشکرا ببێ.	*Dátirse rozhèk bet am nihenîá âshkirâ **bibe**.*	She fears there will come a day this secret will be revealed.

The present subjunctive of *hâtin* 'to come' is regularly conjugated on the stem *be-* (for **bíye-*). Note that the 3rd-person singular subjunctive of *hâtin* is identical to the 3rd-person singular subjunctive of *bûn*, i.e. both are *be(t)*.

PDF 4 KURD

هاتن **hâtin**

بێم	**bem**	بێین	**beyn**
بێی، بێیت	**bey(t)**	بێن	**ben**
بێ، بێت	**be(t)**	بێن	**ben**

The verbs *henân* ‘to bring’ and *heshtin* ‘to let’ have subjunctives formed both on the regular stems *bíhen-* and *bíheł-* and on the contracted stem*s ben-* and *beł-:*

REGULAR SUBJUNCTIVE				CONTRACTED SUBJUNCTIVE			
هێنان **henân**							
بهێنم	**bíhenim**	بهێنین	**bíhenîn**	بێنم	**benim**	بێنین	**benîn**
بهێنیت	**bíhenî(t)**	بهێنن	**bíhenin**	بێنیت	**benî(t)**	بێنن	**benin**
بێنێت	**bíhene(t)**	بهێنن	**bíhenin**	بێنێت	**bene(t)**	بێنن	**benin**
هێشتن **heshtin**							
بهێڵم	**bíhełim**	بهێڵین	**bíhełîn**	بێڵم	**bełim**	بێڵین	**bełîn**
بهێڵیت	**bíhełî(t)**	بهێڵن	**bíhełin**	بێڵیت	**bełî(t)**	بێڵن	**bełin**
بهێڵێت	**bíhełe(t)**	بهێڵن	**bíhełin**	بێڵێت	**bełe(t)**	بێڵن	**bełin**

The present subjunctive is used in the following instances:

(1) independently—i.e. not dependent upon a preceding construction—as a deliberative (English ‘should’). In literary style, the interrogative particle ئایا *âyâ* often introduces the construction.

ئایا پاشەوپاش بگەڕێتەوە؟	*Âyâ pâshawpâsh* ***bígařetawa****?*	Should he retrace his steps?
سبەینی بێم؟	*Sbaynî* ***bem****?*	Should I come tomorrow?
دەرگا بکەینەوە؟	*Dargâ* ***bíkaynawa****?*	Should we open the door?

(2) in the 1st persons as a cohortative (‘let me, let’s’) and in the 3rd persons as a hortatory (‘let him…, may he …’). The 1st-person is often preceded by با *bâ* or وەرە *wára* (‘c’mon’).

با برۆین.	*Bâ* ***bíroyn****.*	C’mon, let’s go.
وەرە، فێڵێکی لێ بکەین.	*Wára, fełèkî le* ***bikayn****.*	C’mon, let’s play a trick on him.
نەبێتە دی.	***Nábet****à dî.*	May it not happen.

PDF 4 KURD

دابنیشنەوە.	*Dâ-**binîshinawa**.*	Let them sit back down.

(3) as complement to all verbs and constructions of wanting (see §20), ability (see §21), necessity, etc.

ئەمەوی بچمە ماڵێ.	*Amawe **bíchim**à mâłe.*	I want to go home.
دەتوانم بتبینم.	*Datwânim **bítbînim**.*	I can see you.
پێویستە کە سەری لەو مرۆڤە کلۆڵە بدات کە چاوەڕوانی ئەکا.	*Pewîst a ka sar i l' aw mirov a kiłołá **bídât** ka châwařwânî akâ.*	It is necessary for her to pay a visit to that miserable man who is waiting.
پێویست نیە کە بلێم …	*Pewîst níya ka **bíłem**…*	It is not necessary that I say…

(4) after a number of conjunctions like بەرلەوەی *bar l' awaî* 'before' and بەبێ ئەوەی *ba be awaî* 'without'[1]

بەرلەوەی بچێ …	***bar l' awaî biche**…*	before he goes/went…
بەرلەوەی ئێوە دابنیشن …	***bar l' awaî** ewa dâ-**binîshin**…*	before you sit/sat down…
بە بێ ئەوەی قسە بکا، ڕۆیشت.	***Ba be awaî** qsa **bikâ**, roysht.*	Without speaking, he left.
بە بێ ئەوەی بتبینێ …	***ba be awaî bitbîne**…*	without his/her seeing you…

(5) in the protasis of a possible conditional:

ئەمە ئەگەر بێتە دی، ئەتوانین بلێین …	*Ama agar **bet**à dî, atwânîn bíłeyn…*	If this should come about, we can say that…
ئەگەر بتەوێ، دەتوانی.	*Agar **bitawe**, datwânî.*	If you want to, you can.

---

[1] *Bar l' awaî* is always followed by the present subjunctive; the proper tense for English translation is gained from context. In English 'without' is followed by a gerund, but in Kurdish it is followed by a subjunctive clause, which is necessarily personal.

PDF 4 KURD

ئەگەر بێت و هێزی ئەتۆم بۆ شەڕ و کوشتار و لە ناو بردن بە کار بهێنرێ …	*Agar **bet** u hez i atom bo shař u kushtâr u la nâw birdin ba kâr **bíhenre**…*	If it **should be** that the power of the atom **be used** for war, slaughter, and destruction…

§ 20. ‘To Want.’ The Kurdish verb corresponding to the English verb ‘want’ is *wîstin* (present stem *we-*). The construction that serves as the present tense of this verb is compounded of the prefix *(d)á-* (negative *ná-*) + possessive pronoun enclitic + *-awe*. The full inflection of the present tense is as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE PRESENT

دەمەوێ **dámawe**	دەمانەوێ **dámânawe**
دەتەوێ **dátawe**	دەتانەوێ **dátânawe**
دەیەوێ **dáyawe**	دەیانەوێ **dáyânawe**

NEGATIVE PRESENT

نەمەوێ **námawe**	نەمانەوێ **námânawe**
نەتەوێ **nátawe**	نەتانەوێ **nátânawe**
نەیەوێ **náyawe**	نەیانەوێ **náyânawe**

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

بمەوێ **bímawe**	بمانەوێ **bímânawe**
بتەوێ **bítawe**	بتانەوێ **bítânawe**
بیەوێ **bíyawe**	بیانەوێ **bíyânawe**

When the complement, or logical object, of *wîstin* (i.e. what one wants) precedes the verb, the “subject” pronominal enclitics are usually attached to the complement, and the verb is the invariable 3rd-person singular *(d)awe* (negative *nâwe)*. The full present “conjugation” of this construction is:

AFFIRMATIVE		NEGATIVE	
م دەوێ **-im dáwe**	مان دەوێ **-mân dáwe**	م ناوێ **-im nâwe**	مان ناوێ **-mân nâwe**
ت دەوێ **-it dáwe**	تان دەوێ **-tân dáwe**	ت ناوێ **-it nâwe**	تان ناوێ **-tân nâwe**
ی دەوێ **-î dáwe**	یان دەوێ **-yân dáwe**	ی ناوێ **-î nâwe**	یان ناوێ **-yân nâwe**

PDF 4 KURD

as in the following examples:

ئەوەم ئەوێ	*Awá**m** awe.*	**I** want that.
ئەم شتانەی ناوێ	*Am shitâná**y** nâwe.*	**He** doesn’t want these things.

All verbal complements of ‘want’ are in the subjunctive, as in the following paradigm of ‘want to go’:

دەمەوێ بچم	**dámawe bíchim**	دەمانەوێ بچین	**dámânawe bíchîn**
دەتەوێ بچیت	**dátawe bíchî(t)**	دەتانەوێ بچن	**dátânawe bíchin**
دەیەوێ بچێت	**dáyawe bíche(t)**	دەیانەوێ بچن	**dáyânawe bíchin**

Other examples are as follows:

ئەتەوێ نامەیەك بنووسی.	*Atawe nâmayèk binûsî.*	You want to write a letter.
ئەیەوێ کتاوێك بکڕی.	*Ayawe ktâwèk bikře.*	He wants to buy a book.
دەمانەوێ نامەیەك بنووسین.	*Damânawe nâmayèk binûsîn.*	We want to write a letter.
ئەتانەوێ پرسیارێك بکەن ؟	*Atânawe pirsyârèk bikan?*	Do you (pl) want to ask a question?
نەیانەوێ دەرس بخوێنن.	*Náyânawe dars bikhwenin.*	They do not want to study.

Wîstin is conjugated as a transitive verb in the past (see §27 below).

§ 21. ‘To Be Able.’ The verb ‘to be able’ is توانین *twânîn* (pres. stem توان *twân*-). *Twânîn* is regularly conjugated in the present, and it is necessarily followed by a subjunctive complement. Below is given the full present conjugation, affirmative and negative, of ‘can/can’t say’:

دەتوانم بڵێم	**dátwânim bíłem**	دەتوانین بڵێین	**dátwânîn bíłeyn**
دەتوانیت بڵێیت	**dátwânî(t) bíłey(t)**	دەتوانن بڵێن	**dátwânin bíłen**
دەتوانێت بڵێت	**dátwâne(t) bíłe(t)**	دەتوانن بڵێن	**dátwânin bíłen**
ناتوانم بڵێم	**nâtwânim bíłem**	ناتوانین بڵێین	**nâtwânîn bíłeyn**
ناتوانیت بڵێیت	**nâtwânî(t) bíłey(t)**	ناتوانن بڵێن	**nâtwânin bíłen**

PDF 4 KURD

ناتوانێت بلێت **nâtwâne(t) bíłe(t)**	ناتوانن بلێن **nâtwânin bíłen**

The subjunctive is regularly formed: بتوانم *bítwânim,* بتوانیت *bítwânî(t),* بتوانێت *bítwâne(t), &c.*, negative subjunctive: نەتوانم *nátwânim,* نەتوانیت *nátwânî(t), &c. Twânîn* is conjugated as a transitive verb in the past (see §27 below).

§ 22. ‘To Remember.’ The idiom used for ‘to remember’ is لە بیر بوون *la bîr bûn*, literally “to be in the mind.” The construction of the idiom, like the present of *wîstin*, depends upon whether or not there is preposed matter.

NOTHING PREPOSED		WITH PREPOSED MATTER	
لە بیرمە **la bîrim a**	لەبیرمانە **la bîrmân a**	ـم لە بیرە **-im la bîr a**	ـمان لە بیرە **-mân la bîr a**
لە بیرتە **la bîrit a**	لەبیرتانە **la bîrtân a**	ـت لە بیرە **-it la bîr a**	ـتان لە بیرە **-tân la bîr a**
لە بیریە **la bîrî a**	لە بیریانە **la bîryân a**	ی لە بیرە **-î la bîr a**	ـیان لە بیرە **-yân la bîr a**

Simple ‘I remember,’ ‘you remember,’ &c. (without mentioning what one remembers) are لە بیرمە *la bîrim a,* لە بیرتە *la bîrit a*, &c. (negative لە بیرم نیە *la bîrim níya,* لە بیرت نیە *la bîrit níya*). However, if anything is preposed to the construction, that is, what one remembers, the enclitic pronouns are detached from *bîr* and attached to the preposed matter, as in the following:

ئەو ڕۆژانەم لە بیرە.	*Aw rozhâná**m la bîr** a.*	**I remember** those days.

Hence, the prepositional phrase is actually *-m la bîr*, where the complement to *la bîr, -(i)m,* has been preposed, or placed before the preposition. Other examples are the following:

ناوی لە بیر نیە.	*Nâwim**î la bîr níya**.*	**He doesn’t remember** my name.
وەڵامی پرسیارەکەت لە بیر نەبوو.	*Wałâm i pirsyâraká**t la bîr nábû**.*	**You didn’t remember** the answer to the question.

Other constructions involving *bîr* are *-î ba bîrâ hâtin* and *-î bîr kawtinawa* ‘to remember,’ all of which usually take preposed pronominal enclitics.

وات بە بیرا هات کە …	*Wât ba bîrâ hât ka…*	Thus you remembered that…

PDF 4 KURD

شتێکم هات به بیرا.	*Shitèkim hât ba bîrâ.*	I remembered something.
دایکیان کەوتەوە بیر.	*Dâykyân kawtawa bîr.*	They remembered their mother.
وەکوو شتێکیان بیر کەوتبێتەوە.	*wakû shitèkyân bîr kawtibetawa*	as though they remembered something

and *la bîr chûn* ‘to forget.’

ناوی ئەو پیاوەم لە بیر چوو.	*Nâw i aw pyâwá**m la bîr chû**.*	**I forgot** that man’s name.
شتێکت لە بیر چوو؟	*Shitèk**it la bîr chû**?*	**Did you forget** something?

§ 23. Pronominal Objects of Verbs. Direct-object pronouns of verbs in the present tense and the present subjunctive mood are normally enclitics attached to some part of the verbal conglomerate (i.e. the verb, any preverbal prefixes, compounding agent). Identical to the possessive enclitic pronouns, the direct-object pronouns are as follows:

AFTER CONSONANTS		AFTER VOWELS	
ـم **´-im**	ـمان **´-mân**	م **´-m**	مان **´-mân**
ـت **´-it**	ـتان **´-tân**	ت **´-t**	تان **´-tân**
ی **´-î**	ـیان **´-yân**	ی **´-y**	یان **´-yân**

The enclitic pronouns are attached in the following order:

1. If the verb is compound, the pronoun object is added to the preverb:[1]

بانگم دەکەن.	*bâng**im** dákan.*	They are calling **me**.
وەری دەگرین.	*war**î** dágirîn.*	We’ll take **it** up.
ئەحمەد هەڵیان دەگرێ.	*Aḥmad hał**yân** dágire.*	Ahmad will pick **them** up.
فێری ئەبم.	*fer**î** ábim.*	I’ll learn **it**.

---

[1] A preverb may be (1) a noun like *bâng* ‘call’ as in *bâng kirdin* ‘to call,’ (2) an adjective like *âshkirâ* ‘obvious’ as in *âshkirâ kirdin* ‘to clarify,’ or (3) a directional element like *war* ‘up’ as in *war-girtin* ‘to take up.’

PDF 4 KURD

2. If the verb is not compound, the pronoun object is added to the model prefix (*á-*, *dá-*, *bí-*) or the negative prefix (*nâ-*, *ná*):

دەیانبینێ.	*dá**yân**bîne.*	He'll see **them**.
دەتبینم.	*dá**t**bînim.*	I'll see **you**.
نایناسم، نەیدەناسم.	*nâ**y**nâsim/ná**y**danâsim.*	I don't know **him**.
نایکڕم.	*nâ**y**křim.*	I'm not going to buy **it**.
ئەمەوێ بیکڕم.	*amawe bí**y**křim.*	I want to buy **it**.
هەز ئەکەم بینێرمەوە بۆ ڕەفیقێکم.	*Haz akam bí**y**nerimawa bo rafîqèkim.*	I'd like to send **it** to a friend of mine.
ڕوو بکەینە وڵاتێك کەس نەمانناسێ.	*Rû bikaynà wiłâtèk kas na**mân**nâse.*	Let's go to a country where nobody knows **us**.

§ 24. The Imperative. The singular imperative of verb stems ending in vowels is formed from *bí-* + the present stem. The plural imperative is exactly like the 2nd-person plural subjunctive. As in the subjunctive of close compound verbs, the *bí-* prefix is usually omitted; in open compounds it is generally found but may be omitted.

INFINITIVE	PRES. STEM	SINGULAR IMPERATIVE	PLURAL IMPERATIVE
kirdin	**ka-**	بکە **bíka**	بکەن **bíkan**
royshtin	**ro-**	بڕۆ **bíro**	بڕۆن **bíron**
tawâw-kirdin	**tawâw-ka-**	تەواو (بـ)کە **tawâw-(bi)ka**	تەواو (بـ)کەن **tawâw-(bi)kan**

If the present stem ends in a consonant, the singular imperative is formed from *bí-* + present stem + *-a*. The plural imperative is identical to the 2nd-person plural subjunctive.

bûn	**b-**	ببە **bíba**	ببن **bíbin**
chûn	**ch-**	بچە **bícha**[1]	بچن **bíchin**

---

[1] In addition to *bícha*, *chûn* has several alternative imperatives, viz. بچـــۆ *bícho* and بچۆرە *bíchora*.

PDF 4 KURD

girtin	**gir-**	بگره **bígira**	بگرن **bígirin**
nûsîn	**nûs-**	بنووسه **bínûsa**	بنووسن **bínûsin**
gwe-girtin	**gwe-gir-**	گوێ (بـ)گره **gwe-(bi)gira**	گوێ (بـ)گرن **gwe-(bi)girin**
dâ-nîshtin	**dâ-nîsh**	دا(بـ)نیشه **dâ-(bi)nîsha**	دا(بـ)نیشن **dâ-(bi)nîshin**
wis-bûn	**wis-b-**	وس به **wis-ba**	وس بن **wis-bin**

Note the irregular singular imperatives of *birdin, dân, khistin,* and the totally irregular imperative of *hâtin*:

birdin	**ba-**	ببەره **bíbara**	ببەن **bíban**
dân	**da-**	بدەره **bídara**	بدەن **bídan**
khistin	**kha-**	بخەره **bíkhara**	بخەن **bíkhan**
hâtin	**ye-**	وەره **wára**	وەرن **wárin**

The *bí-* prefix of the imperative takes pronominal direct objects exactly like the subjunctive prefix:

به چاوی خۆت بمبینه چۆن پیاوێکم!	*Ba châw i khot bí**m**bîna chon pyâwèkim!*	See (**me**) with your own eyes what kind of man I am!
بیهێنه لەگەڵ خۆت!	*Bí**y**hena lagał khot!*	Bring **him/her/it** with you!

Imperatives are often preceded by the “attention-getting” particle ده *da*.

The negative imperative prefix is *má-*, which replaces *bí-* where it occurs.

مەگری!	*Mágrî!*	Don’t cry!
مەیهێنه!	*Máyhena!*	Don’t bring it!
دامەنیشه!	*Dâ-mánîsha!*	Don’t sit down!

§ 25. The Simple Past (Intransitive). The simple past (preterite) of intransitive verbs is formed by adding unstressed personal suffixes to the past stem of the verb. The past stem is derived by deleting the *-(i)n* ending of the infinitive, e.g., *hâtin* > *hât-*, *bûn* > *bû-*.

PDF 4 KURD

AFTER CONSONANTS		AFTER VOWELS	
-im	**-în**	**-m**	**-yn**
-î(t)	**-in**	**-y(t)**	**-n**
—	**-in**	**—**	**-n**

Examples of the simple past inflection are from هـاتـن *hâtin* ‘to come,’ بـوون *bûn* ‘to be,’ گەیین *gayîn* ‘to arrive’ (int.), and مان *mân* ‘to remain.’

هاتم **hâtim**	هاتین **hâtîn**	بووم **bûm**	بووین **bûyn**
هاتیت **hâtî(t)**	هاتن **hâtin**	وویت **bûy(t)**	بوون **bûn**
هات **hât**	هاتن **hâtin**	بوو **bû**	بوون **bûn**
گەیم **gayîm**	گەییین **gayîyn**	مام **mâm**	ماین **mâyn**
گەییت **gayîy(t)**	گەیین **gayîn**	مایت **mây(t)**	مان **mân**
گەیی **gayî**	گەیین **gayîn**	ما **mâ**	مان **mân**

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná*-:

نەهاتم **náhâtim**	نەهاتین **náhâtîn**	نەبووم **nábûm**	نەبووین **nábûyn**
نەهاتیت **náhâtî(t)**	نەهاتن **náhâtin**	نەبوویت **nábûy(t)**	نەبوون **nábûn**
نەهات **náhât**	نەهاتن **náhâtin**	نەبوو **nábû**	نەبوون **nábûn**
نەگەییم **nágayîm**	نەگەییین **nágayîyn**	نەمام **námâm**	نەماین **námâyn**
نەگەییت **nágayîy(t)**	نەگەیین **nágayîn**	نەمایت **námây(t)**	نەمان **námân**
نەگەیی **nágayî**	نەگەیین **nágayîn**	نەما **námâ**	نەمان **námân**

The *t* of the 2nd-person singular form is recovered if the verb has any suffixed ending like -*awa* or the directional suffix -*à*. For example, the verbs *hâtinawa* ‘to come back’ and *chûnà mâł* ‘to go home’ are conjugated as follows:

هاتمەوە **hâtimawa**	هاتینەوە **hâtînawa**	چوومە ماڵ **chûmà mâł**	چووینە ماڵ **chûynà mâł**
هاتیتەوە **hâtîtawa**	هاتنەوە **hâtinawa**	چوویتە ماڵ **chûytà mâł**	چوونە ماڵ **chûnà mâł**
هاتەوە **hâtawa**	هاتنەوە **hâtinawa**	چووە ماڵ **chûà mâł**	چوونە ماڵ **chûnà mâł**

§ 26. The Past Habitual/Progressive (Intransitive). The past habitual (‘I used to go’) and progressive (‘I was going’) is formed by adding the habitu-

PDF 4 KURD

al/progressive prefix *(d)á-* to the simple past.

دەهاتم **dáhâtim**	دەهاتین **dáhâtîn**	دەگەییم **dágayîm**	دەگەییین **dágayîyn**
دەهاتیت **dáhâtî(t)**	دەهاتن **dáhâtin**	دەگەیییت **dágayîy(t)**	دەگەیین **dágayîn**
دەهات **dáhât**	دەهاتن **dáhâtin**	دەگەیی **dágayî**	دەگەیین **dágayîn**

For past habituals in *á*-, the negative is formed by prefixing *ná*- to the affirmative, but, unlike the present, the negative prefix does not combine with the modal prefix:

نەئەهاتم **náahâtim**	نەئەهاتین **náahâtîn**	نەئەگەییم **náagayîm**	نەئەگەییین **náagayîyn**
نەئەهاتیت **náahâtî(t)**	نەئەهاتن **náahâtin**	نەئەگەییت **náagayîy(t)**	نەئەگەیین **náagayîn**
نەئەهات **náahât**	نەئەهاتن **náahâtin**	نەئەگەیی **náagayî**	نەئەگەیین **náagayîn**

For past habituals in *dá*-, the negative is regularly formed by prefixing *ná*- to the affirmative:

نەدەهاتم **nádahâtim**	نەدەهاتین **nádahâtîn**
نەدەهاتیت **nádahâtî(t)**	نەدەهاتن **nádahâtin**
نەدەهات **nádahât**	نەدەهاتن **nádahâtin**

نەدەگەییم **nádagayîm**	نەدەگەییین **nádagayîyn**
نەدەگەیییت **nádagayîy(t)**	نەدەگەیین **nádagayîn**
نەدەگەیی **nádagayî**	نەدەگەیین **nádagayîn**

As in the present tense, in the Suleymani dialect the marker is *á*-, and it is used as both past habitual and past progressive; in other dialects the marker is *dá*-.

§ 27. The Simple Past (Transitive): The Ergative. The simple past tense of transitive verbs is formed from the past stem of the verb and an agent affix—the ergative construction.[1] The agent affixes are identical to the enclitic

---

[1] In ergative-type constructions what we think of as the subject is the "agent" (or "logical subject") and what we think of as the direct object is the "patient" (for Sorani we will also call it "logical object"). In ergative languages that also have case, the agent is in an oblique case (and/or otherwise marked) and the patient is in the nominative (or subjective) case with the verb agreeing in number (and gender if applica-

PDF 4 KURD

possessive pronouns:

م **-(i)m**	مان **-mân**
ت **-(i)t**	تان **-tân**
ی **-î/-y**	یان **-yân**

The agent affix usually precedes the verb and is attached to some preverbal matter (more about which shortly) to give the following "conjugation" of *khwârdin* 'to eat.'

م خوارد **-im khwârd**	مان خوارد **-mân khwârd**
ت خوارد **-it khwârd**	تان خوارد **-tân khwârd**
ی خوارد **-î khwârd**	یان خوارد **-yân khwârd**

If only the verb is expressed, or only the verb and its logical subject, the agent affixes are added to the end of the past stem, as

خواردم **khwârdim**	خواردمان **khwârdmân**
خواردت **khwârdit**	خواردتان **khwârdtân**
خواردی **khwârdî**	خواردیان **khwârdyân**

If anything other than the verb is expressed, then the agent is affixed to the first available preverbal matter—"available preverbal matter" includes the following categories in hierarchical order:

(1) the negative prefix, as in

نەمخوارد *ná**m**khwârd*	**I** didn't eat (it).
نەتدیت *ná**t**dît*	**you** didn't see (him/her/it).

---

ble) with the patient. In Kurmanji Kurdish, for example, where a distinction between independent subject and oblique pronouns has been retained, the subject pronoun for 'he' is *ew*, and the oblique 'him' is *wî*; the subject 'I' is *ez*, and the oblique 'me' is *min*. 'He saw me' in Kurmanji is *wî ez dîtim* (where *dîtim* agrees with the patient *ez*), and 'I saw him' is *min ew dît*. Sorani, having lost independent oblique pronouns, resorts to pronominal enclitics to express the agent. An oversimplification is to think of the ergative as a passive (e.g., 'the dog bit the man' expressed as 'by the dog the man was bit'), but it is important to realize that speakers of ergative-type languages by no means think of the construction as passive (particularly since Sorani Kurdish has a passive, see §34 below).

PDF 4 KURD

نەینووسی *ná**y**nûsî*	**he** didn’t write (it).

Full inflection of the negative past tense of *khwârdin* is as follows:

نەمخوارد **námkhwârd**	نەمانخوارد **námânkhwârd**
نەتخوارد **nátkhwârd**	نەتانخوارد **nátânkhwârd**
نەیخوارد **náykhwârd**	نەیانخوارد **náyânkhwârd**

(2) the progressive prefix, as in

دەمنووسی *dá**m**nûsî*	**I** was writing (it).
دەیبەست *da**y**bast*	**he** was tying (it).

Full inflection of the progressive past tense of *khwârdin* is as follows:

دەمخوارد **dámkhwârd**	دەمانخوارد **dámânkhwârd**
دەتخوارد **dátkhwârd**	دەتانخوارد **dátânkhwârd**
دەیخوارد **dáykhwârd**	دەیانخوارد **dáyânkhwârd**

(3) a compounding preverb as in

هەڵمگرت *hał**im**girt.*	**I** took (it).
دەریهێنا *dar**î**henâ*	**he** took (it) off/out.

Full inflections of the past tenses of *hał-girtin* ‘to pick up’ and *nâma-nûsîn* ‘to write letters’ are as follows:

هەڵمگرت **hałimgirt**	هەڵمانگرت **hałmângirt**
هەڵتگرت **hałitgirt**	هەڵتانگرت **hałtângirt**
هەڵیگرت **hałîgirt**	هەڵیانگرت **hałyângirt**

نامەم نووسی **nâmam nûsî**	نامەمان نووسی **nâmamân nûsî**
نامەت نووسی **nâmat nûsî**	نامەتان نووسی **nâmatân nûsî**
نامەی نووسی **nâmay nûsî**	نامەیان نووسی **nâmayân nûsî**

(4) the logical object (patient) of the verb, as in

نامەکەم نووسی. *nâmaká**m** nûsî.*	**I** wrote the letter.
ئەو کارەی نەکرد. *aw kârá**y** nákird.*	**He** didn’t do that.

PDF 4 KURD

When the logical object is modified by the enclitic *-îsh*/*-ysh* ‘too, also,’ the enclitic comes between the logical object and the agent affix:

براکانی ژنەکەیشی بانگ کرد.	*birâkân i zhinakáysh**î** bâng kird.*	**He** invited his wife’s brothers also.

(5) a prepositional phrase other than temporal or manner,[1] as in

بۆ ڕەفیقێکیان نووسی.	*Bo rafîqèk**yân** nûsî.*	**They** wrote it to a friend.
بە پێویستم زانی بیاننووسمەوە و چاپیان بکەم.	*Ba pewîst**im** zânî bíyân-nûsimawa u châpyân bikam.*	**I** considered it necessary to write them down and get them printed.

Generally speaking, the only things to which the agent affix cannot be joined are (1) the expressed logical subject to which the agent affix refers *(pyâwaká witî* ‘the man said’), (2) temporal adverbs and phrases like ‘today’ and ‘at that time,’ and (3) prepositional phrases of manner (generally with the preposition *ba*) like بە تووڕەئیەوە *ba tûřaîawa* ‘in anger,’ بە پەلە *ba pala* ‘in haste,’ and بە هەڵە *ba hała* ‘in error.’

An overtly expressed logical subject in no way obviates the necessity for a third-person agent affix, but the agent affix cannot be attached to the logical subject.

کابرای پیر درەمەکانی وەرگرت.	*Kâbrâ i pîr diramakân**î** wargirt.*	The old gent took the dirhems.
کوڕەکان بە منیان وت.	*Kuřakân ba min**yân** wit.*	The boys said to me.
من بە کوڕەکانم وت.	*Min ba kuřakân**im** wit.*	I said to the boys.

Each and every transitive verb in the past tense must have its own agent affix, i.e. one agent affix cannot serve more than one verb. For example, in the phrase رووی کرد و گوتی *rûy kird u gutî* (‘he faced him and said’), the first agent affix, -*y,* serves only the verb *rû-kird;* the second verb, *gut,* must also have an agent affix, and since there is no preposed matter, the affix is on the end of the verb.

---

[1] Prepositional phrases with pronominal complements present a special problem. See §27.3 below.

PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD
PDF 4 KURD
PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD

When a phrase consists only of an expressed logical subject (agent), prepositional matter to which the agent affix cannot be attached, and verb, then the agent affix is attached to the verb:

... کچەکە بە تووڕەئیەوە وتی *kichaká ba tûřaîawa witî…*	the girl said angrily…

§ 27.1. The Ergative in South Sorani. In North Sorani the past tense of all transitive verbs is made on the ergative model with agent affixes as described above. In South Sorani, however, a split has occurred. Generally, the ergative construction has been displaced by the non-ergative construction on the model of intransitive past verbs (and doubtlessly under the influence of Persian). However, the older ergative construction has remained for certain figurative expressions. Although the ergative is theoretically available for any past transitive verb, its use may produce a statement on the figurative plane that sounds “funny” or odd—i.e. a figurative use that really has no conventional application. For instance, the verb ماڵ سووتن *mâł sûtin* ‘to burn someone’s house’ may have an actual, literal application, as in

ماڵەکەی دارا سووتم *mâłaká i Dârâ sûtim*	I burned Dara’s house down

or it may have a figurative application, as in

ماڵەکەی دارام سووت *mâłaká i Dârâm sût*	“I burned Dara’s house”

but here, since it is ergative, it is figurative and really means “I ruined him,” “I did him in.” The verb نان خواردن *nân-khwârdin* ‘to eat bread’ may be either actually ‘to eat (some) bread’ or figuratively ‘to break bread, have a meal, enjoy someone’s hospitality.’ On the actual level the past tense is *nân khwârdim*, as in

نان خواردم *nân khwârdim*	I ate bread.

while on the figurative level the past tense is *nânim khwârd*, as in

لەتەك ئێوە نانم خوارد *Latak ewa nânim khwârd.*	I broke bread with you (I enjoyed your hospitality).

North Sorani, with no such differentiation, expresses these two examples as

PDF 4 KURD

mâłaká i Dârâm sûtâ and *nânim khwârd* in all situations (*nân khwârdim* is meaningless in North Sorani).

§ 27.2. Pronouns as Logical Objects of Past Transitive Verbs. With past transitive verbs, when the agent affix precedes the verb, enclitic pronominal logical objects are attached to the past stem of the verb, but the enclitics used are the subject endings for the intransitive past,[1] as in the following paradigm of the verb *âgâ-kirdin* ‘to inform’ with the 3rd-person singular agent affix *-y*.

ئاگای کردم *âgây kird**im*** he informed **me**	ئاگای کردین *âgây kird**în*** he informed **us**
ئاگای کردیت *âgây kird**î(t)*** he informed **you**	ئاگای کردن *âgây kird**in*** he informed **you**
ئاگای کرد *âgây kird* he informed **him/her**	ئاگای کردن *âgây kird**in*** he informed **them**

A 3rd-person singular logical object is not overtly expressed with a pronominal suffix since it is implicit in the zero ending of the verb (as in the second example below).

نەمدیتی، نەمدیتیت *námdîtî(t)*	I didn’t see you
نەمدیت *námdît*	I didn’t see him/her/it
هەڵتگرتن *hałitgirtin*	you picked them up
نەماندیتن *námândîtin*	we didn’t see you (pl)
دەتانکێشان *dátânkeshân*	you (pl) were pulling them

With a 3rd-person plural inanimate logical object, the verb optionally agrees in number with the logical object. In the example, کابرای پیر درەمەکانی وەرگرت *kâbrâ i pîr diramakânî wargirt* ‘the old gent took the dirhems,’ the verb could also be وەرگرتن *wargirtin* to agree with the plural logical object. Similarly, in the sentence

پیاوێك کتاوەکانی کڕی (کڕین) *Pyâwèk ktâwakânî křî(n).* A man bought the books.

the verb *křî* may agree with the plural logical object as *křîn*. With 1st- and

---

[1] Another way of analyzing this pattern is to think of the past transitive verb *dît* as meaning “saw him/her/it.” Similarly, *dîtim* means “saw me,” *dîtî(t)* means “saw you.” The logical subjects of these verbs must be expressed by agent affixes.

PDF 4 KURD

2nd-person logical objects and with animate 3rd persons, the verb perforce agrees with the object in both number and person.

When the agent affix does not precede the verb (i.e. if only the verb, or verb + logical subject, and no other element is present), the logical subject agent affix is suffixed to the verb first, and the logical object follows the agent affix **except for the 3rd-person singular agent**. When the logical subject is 3rd-person singular, the order is reversed: the logical object cedes the logical subject. In the table below are all available forms using *dîtin* 'to see' as an example; the logical objects are given in boldface. Again, a 3rd-person singular logical-object pronoun is not expressed; it is built into the verb.

	me	**you**	**him/her**	**us**	**you**	**them**
I saw	—	دیتمیت *dîtimî(t)*	دیتم *dîtim*	—	دیتمن *dîtimin*	دیتمن *dîtimin*
you saw	دیتتم *dîtitim*	—	دیتت *dîtit*	دیتتین *dîtitîn*	—	دیتتن *dîtitin*
s/he saw	دیتمی *dîtimî*	دیتیتی *dîtîtî*	دیتی *dîtî*	دیتینی *dîtînî*	دیتنی *dîtinî*	دیتنی *dîtinî*
we saw	—	دیتمانیت *dîtmânî(t)*	دیتمان *dîtmân*	—	دیتمانن *dîtmânin*	دیتمانن *dîtmânin*
you saw	دیتتانم *dîttânim*	—	دیتتان *dîttân*	دیتتانین *dîttânîn*	—	دیتتانن *dîttânin*
they saw	دیتیانم *dîtyânim*	دیتیانیت *dîtyânî(t)*	دیتیان *dîtyân*	دیتیانین *dîtyânîn*	دیتیانن *dîtyânin*	دیتیانن *dîtyânin*

	me	**you**	**him/her**	**us**	**you**	**them**
I didn't see	—	نەمدیتیت *námdîtî(t)*	نەمدیت *námdît*	—	نەمدیتن *námdîtin*	نەمدیتن *námdîtin*
you didn't see	نەتدیتم *nátdîtim*	—	نەتدیت *nátdît*	نەتدیتین *nátdîtîn*	—	نەتدیتن *nátdîtin*
s/he didn't see	نەیدیتم *náydîtim*	نەیدیتیت *náydîtî(t)*	نەیدیت *náydît*	نەیدیتین *náydîtîn*	نەیدیتن *náydîtin*	نەیدیتن *náydîtin*

we didn't see	—	نەماندیتیت *námândîtî(t)*	نەماندیت *námândît*	—	نەماندیتن *námândîtin*	نەماندیتن *námândîtin*
you didn't see	نەتاندیتم *nátândîtim*	—	نەتاندیت *nátândît*	نەتاندیتین *nátândîtîn*	—	نەتاندیتن *nátândîtin*
they didn't see	نەیاندیتم *náyândîtim*	نەیاندیتیت *náyândîtî(t)*	نەیاندیت *náyândît*	نەیاندیتین *náyândîtîn*	نەیاندیتن *náyândîtin*	نەیاندیتن *náyândîtin*

In South Sorani the situation is altogether different. Since, with the few exceptions noted above, the ergative construction has been lost, transitive verbs are regularly conjugated exactly like intransitives, and pronominal objects are added directly to the end of the verb form—all on the Persian model. The normal forms for South Sorani are as follows (note that the normal South Sorani third-person plural ending is *-an* instead of *-in)*:

	me	**you**	**him/her**	**us**	**you**	**them**
I saw	—	دیتمت *dîtimit*	دیتمی *dîtimî*	—	دیتمتان *dîtimtân*	دیتمیان *dîtimyân*
you saw	دیتیتم *dîtîtim*	—	دیتیتی *dîtîtî*	دیتیتمان *dîtîtmân*	—	دیتیتیان *dîtîtyân*
s/he saw	دیتم *dîtim*	دیتت *dîtit*	دیتی *dîtî*	دیتمان *dîtmân*	دیتتان *dîttân*	دیتیان *dîtyân*
we saw	—	دیتینت *dîtînit*	دیتینی *dîtînî*	—	دیتینتان *dîtîntân*	دیتینیان *dîtînyân*
you saw	دیتنم *dîtinim*	—	دیتنی *dîtinî*	دیتنمان *dîtinmân*	—	دیتنیان *dîtinyân*
they saw	دیتەنم *dîtanim*	دیتەنت *dîtanit*	دیتەنی *dîtanî*	دیتەنمان *dîtanmân*	دیتەنتان *dîtantân*	دیتەنیان *dîtanyân*

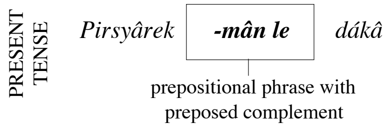
§ 27.3. Pronominal Prepositional Complements with Agent Affixes. In past transitive verbs the space normally available for a preposed pronominal complement is taken by the agent affix. In this case, the preposition and its complement are split—the preposition precedes the verb, and the complement of the preposition is "bumped" to the end of the verb, but the pronouns

PDF 4 KURD

used are the endings used for intransitive past verbs (*-im*/*-m, -î(t)*/*-y(t), —, -în*/*-yn, -in*/*-n, -in*/*-n*). Note especially that when the prepositional complement is 3rd-person singular, nothing is added to the verb stem. Since the past verb has built-in logical objects, these logical objects are used in such constructions as prepositional complements. The example

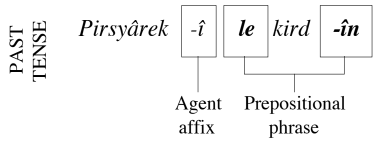
پرسیارێکمان لێ دەکا. *Pirsyârèkmân le dakâ.* He asks a question of us.

(present tense), can be viewed diagrammatically as follows:



But in the past tense—'he asked a question of us'—the agent affix takes the place that would be occupied by the preposed complement to the preposition, so the complement of the preposition is removed to the end of the verb stem,

پرسیارێکی لێ کردین. *Pirsyârèkî le kirdîn.*[1] He asked a question of us.



In another example,

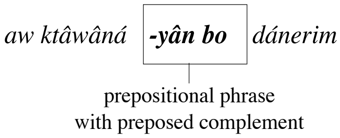
---

[1] Or, the incomplete sequence *pirsyârek-le-kird-* can be thought of as meaning "asked-a-question-of" and the personal ending *-în* supplies the "object" "us." Such an approach is probably closer to how native speakers "feel" all such constructions involving a preposition + verb. In the next example, *bo-nârd-* is certainly felt to mean "sent-to" and *-in* supplies the "object" "them." Even in the present-tense example *bo-dánerim* is felt to mean "I-am-sending-to" and the preposed *-yân* supplies the object "them." Native speakers do not seem to feel that *-yân bo* really "go together" as a coherent unit in any way separable from the verb; they think of *bo-dánerim* as the coherent unit and feel that the proper place to pause is between *-yân* and *bo*, not between *bo* and *dánerim.* To a certain extent, in the minds of native speakers *bo-nârdin* is not felt to differ substantially from *hał-girtin* or any other compound verb.

PDF 4 KURD

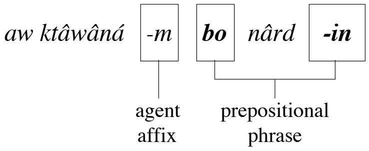
ئەو کتاوانەیان بۆ دەنێرم.	*aw ktâwânáyân bo dánerim.*	I'm sending those books to them.

the preposition *bo* has its complement -*yân* preposed:


aw ktâwâná
-yân bo
dánerim
prepositional phrase
with preposed complement

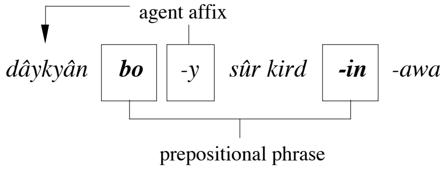
In the past, however, the agent affix -*(i)m* takes the place of the complement of the preposition. The complement is deferred to the end of the verb stem and is changed from -*yân* to -*in*, giving

ئەو کتاوانەم بۆ ناردن.	*aw ktâwânám bo nârdin.*	I sent those books to them.


aw ktâwâná
-m
bo
nârd
-in
agent
affix
prepositional
phrase

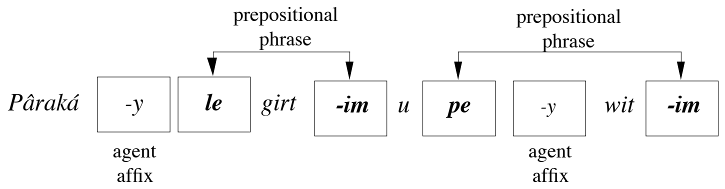
When the first available element to which an agent affix can be attached is a preposition, the complement of the preposition is "bumped," as in the following:

دایکیان بۆی سوور کردنەوە و بۆی دانان.	*dâykyân boy sûr kirdinawa u boy dâ-nân.*	their mother fried it for them and set it down before them.


agent affix
dâykyân
bo
-y
sûr kird
-in
-awa
prepositional phrase

Here the -*y* on *boy* in both parts of the sentence is the agent affix referring to *dâykyân* and the -*in* in *kirdinawa* and *dâ-nân* furnishes the complement of the preposition *bo*. Another example is as follows:

پارەکەی لێ گرتم و پێی وتم …	*pârakáy le girtim u pey witim…*	he took the money from me and said to me…



Here the *-y* on *pâraká* and on *pe* is the agent affix (‘he’), and the *-im* suffix in the verbs *girt* and *wit* are complements to the prepositions *le* and *pe* respectively.

Other examples are as follows:

دەرگایان کردەوە بۆ من (بۆم) > دەرگایان بۆ کردمەوە	*dargâyân kirdawa **bo min** **(bom)** > dargâyân **bo** kird**im**awa*	They opened the door **for me**.
پووڵەکەی وەرگرت لێمە (لێمان)> پووڵەکەی لێ وەرگرتین	*pûłakay wargirt **l’ ema** **(lemân)** > pûłakay **le** wargirt**în***	He took the money **from us**.
ئەمەمان وت بە تۆ (پێت) > ئەمەمان پێ وتیت	*amámân wit **ba to (pet)** > amámân **pe** wit**î(t)***	We said this **to you**.
وتم پێت > پێم وتیت	*witim **pet** > **pem** wit**î(t)***	I said **to you**.
قسەم کرد بۆ ئێوە (بۆتان) > قسەم بۆ کردن	*qsam kird **bo ewa** **(botân)** > qsam **bo** kird**in***	I told **you** a story.
گوێم گرت لەو (لێی) > گوێم لێ گرت	*gwem girt **l’ aw (ley)** > gwem **le** girt*	I listened **to him**.
وتی بە ئەوان (پێیان) > پێی وتن	*witî **ba awân (peyân)** > **pey** wit**in***	He said **to them**.

Since the ergative construction is not in normal use in South Sorani, the placement of these pronouns is quite the reverse of North Sorani. Therefore, while in North Sorani *pey witim* means ‘he said to me,’ in South Sorani it means ‘I said to him.’ *Bot kirdim* means ‘you did it for me’ in North Sorani but ‘I did it for you’ in South Sorani, and *bomân kirdin* means ‘we did it for

PDF 4 KURD

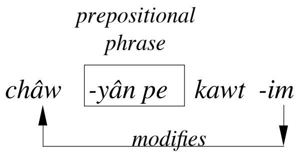
you/them' in North Sorani but 'you/they did it for us' in South Sorani.

§ 27.4. Displacement of a Possessive Pronoun by a Preposed Prepositional Complement. Similar to the displacement of a prepositional complement by the agent affix is the displacement of a possessive pronoun by a preposed prepositional complement. In a construction such as the following:

چاوم بە رەفیقەکانم کەوت.	*châwim ba rafîqakânim kawt.*	My eye fell upon my friends.

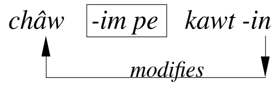
if the noun *rafîqakânim* is replaced by a pronoun, turning the phrase into *-yân pe*, the preposed prepositional complement "bumps" the possessive *-im* from its position on *châw* to the end of the verb, as:

چاویان پێ کەوتم	*châwyân pe kawtim*	my eye fell upon them



The endings on the verb in such situations are the verbal personal endings, not the possessives. The first-person shows no difference, of course, but the other persons are distinguished, as in the following:

چاویان بە من کەوت > چاوم پێ کەوتن	*châwyân ba min kawt >* *châwim pe kawtin*	their eye fell upon me



In a combination of the principles given in this and the preceding paragraphs, when a possessive pronoun would be followed by an agent affix, the possessive pronoun may also be "bumped" to the end of a past transitive verb (turning into the intransitive past subject pronouns in the process), as in

کوڕە کۆرپەکەی دیتم.	*kuř a korpaká'y dît**im**.*	He saw **my** infant son.

PDF 4 KURD

کوڕە کۆرپەکەمان دیتیت. *kuř a korpaká’mân dîtî̂(t)*. We saw **your** infant son.

کوڕە کۆرپەکانیان دیتین. *kuř a korpakân’yân dît**în***. They saw **our** infant sons.

The first example could also be expressed as کوڕە کۆرپەکەمی دیت *kuř a korpakám’î dît*, but the combination of possessive pronoun + agent affix is generally avoided. Hence the “bumped” possessive.

§ 28. The Perfect Active Participle. The perfect active participle is formed by adding *-û* to the past stem of the verb. With past stems that end in vowels the participle takes the form *-w*.

CONSONANT STEMS		VOWEL STEMS	
INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE
هاتن **hâtin >**	هاتوو **hâtû**	مان **mân >**	ماو **mâw**
تێگەیشتن **te-gayshtin >**	تێگەیشتوو **tegayshtû**	ڕوودان **rû-dân >**	ڕووداو **rûdâw**
کردوەوە **kirdinawa >**	کردووەوە **kirdûawa**	کڕین **křîn >**	کڕیو **křîw**

In meaning the perfect active participle corresponds roughly to the English present perfect participle: هاتوو *hâtû* ‘having come,’ تێگەیشتوو *tegayshtû* ‘having understood,’ کردووەوە *kirdûawa* ‘having opened,’ &c. Transitivity and intransitivity are retained in the participle, i.e. کڕیو *křîw* means ‘having bought’ in the active sense, not ‘bought’ in the passive sense. (For the perfect passive participle, see §34.1 below.)

The perfect active participle is principally used to form the present perfect tense (see §29 below), but it can also be used both adjectivally (پاشکەوتوو *pâshkawtû* ‘fallen behind, backward,’ دانیشتوو *dânîshtû* ‘having sat down, seated,’ and نوستوو *nustû* ‘having gone to sleep, asleep’) and nominally (ڕووداو *rûdâw* ‘event’ < ڕوودان *rû-dân* ‘to happen, take place’).

§ 29. The Present Perfect Tense (Intransitive). The present perfect tense of intransitive verbs is formed from the perfect active participle plus the present copulas. Examples from مان *mân* ‘to remain’ (perfect active participle ماو *mâw*) and هاتن *hâtin* ‘to come’ (perfect active participle هاتوو *hâtû*) are:

ماوم **mâwim**	ماوین **mâwîn**	هاتووم **hâtûm**	هاتووین **hâtûyn**
ماویت **mâwî(t)**	ماون **mâwin**	هاتوویت **hâtûy(t)**	هاتوون **hâtûn**
ماوە **mâwa**	ماون **mâwin**	هاتووە **hâtûa**	هاتوون **hâtûn**

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-*

نەماوم **námâwim**	نەماوین **námâwîn**	نەهاتووم **náhâtûm**	نەهاتووین **náhâtûyn** **&c.**

Verbs ending in *-awa* are conjugated as follows. Note especially the infixed *-t-* in the 3rd-person singular.

ماومەوە **mâwimawa**	ماوینەوە **mâwînawa**	هاتوومەوە **hâtûmawa**	هاتووینەوە **hâtûynawa**
ماویتەوە **mâwîtawa**	ماونەوە **mâwinawa**	هاتوویتەوە **hâtûytawa**	هاتوونەوە **hâtûnawa**
ماوەتەوە **mâwatawa**	ماونەوە **mâwinawa**	هاتووەتەوە **hâtûatawa**	هاتوونەوە **hâtûnawa**

For general purposes, the present perfect tense of Kurdish is equivalent to the English present perfect (‘I have come’). It is in all respects the exact equivalent of the Persian past narrative (هاتووم *hâtûm* = آمده‌ام and ماوە *mâwa* = مانده‌است), and this means that in Kurdish the present perfect is used in situations where an action or change of state in the past is felt to be of particular relevance to a present situation.

§ 29.1. The Present Perfect Tense (Transitive). The present perfect tense of transitive verbs is made from the agent affixes plus the past participle plus the 3rd-pers. pres. copula (*-a*), as in *khwardin* ‘to eat’ and *křîn* ‘to buy.’

م خواردووە **-im khwârdûa**	مان خواردووە **-mân khwârdûa**
ت خواردووە **-it khwârdûa**	تان خواردووە **-tân khwârdûa**
ی خواردووە **-î khwârdûa**	یان خواردووە **-yân khwârdûa**

م کڕیوە **-im křîwa**	مان کڕیوە **-mân křîwa**
ت کڕیوە **-it křîwa**	تان کڕیوە **-tân křîwa**
ی کڕیوە **-î křîwa**	یان کڕیوە **-yân křîwa**

Verbs in *-awa* have a *-t-* inserted between the copula *a* and *-awa*, as in کردنەوە

PDF 4 KURD

kirdinawa ‘to open’ and دۆزینەوە *dozînawa* ‘to discover.’

م کردووەتەوە	**-im kirdûatawa**	مان کردووەتەوە	**-mân kirdûatawa**
ت کردووەتەوە	**-it kirdûatawa**	تان کردووەتەوە	**-tân kirdûatawa**
ی کردووەتەوە	**-î kirdûatawa**	یان کردووەتەوە	**-yân kirdûatawa**

م دۆزیوەتەوە	**-im dozîwatawa**	مان دۆزیوەتەوە	**-mân dozîwatawa**
ت دۆزیوەتەوە	**-it dozîwatawa**	تان دۆزیوەتەوە	**-tân dozîwatawa**
ی دۆزیوەتەوە	**-î dozîwatawa**	یان دۆزیوەتەوە	**-yân dozîwatawa**

When nothing else is available to which the agent affixes may be joined, they fall on the participle and are followed by the 3rd-person singular copula -*a* (except the 3rd singular, which has the form -*yatî*[1]), as in خواردن *khwârdin* and کڕین *křîn:*

خواردوومە	**khwârdûma**	خواردوومانە	**khwârdûmâna**
خواردووتە	**khwârdûta**	خواردووتانە	**khwârdûtâna**
خواردوویەتی	**khwârdûyatî**	خواردوویانە	**khwârdûyâna**

کڕیومە	**křîwima**	کڕیومانە	**křîwmâna**
کڕیوتە	**křîwita**	کڕیوتانە	**křîwtâna**
کڕیویەتی	**křîwyatî**	کڕیویانە	**křîwyâna**

When any other element is available, the agent affixes are joined thereto, as in the negative:

نەمخواردووە	**námkhwârdûa**	نەمانخواردووە	**námânkhwârdûa**
نەتخواردووە	**nátkhwârdûa**	نەتانخواردووە	**nátânkhwârdûa**
نەیخواردووە	**náykhwârdûa**	نەیانخواردووە	**náyânkhwârdûa**

نەمکڕیوە	**námkřîwa**	نەمانکڕیوە	**námânkřîwa**
نەتکڕیوە	**nátkřîwa**	نەتانکڕیوە	**nátânkřîwa**
نەیکڕیوە	**náykřîwa**	نەیانکڕیوە	**náyânkřîwa**

---

[1] The same -*yatî* that results consistently from the 3rd-person singular enclitic -*î*/-*y* plus the 3rd-person singular copula. The spelling of this suffix is inconsistent. See §15 above.

PDF 4 KURD

§ 30. The Past Perfect Tense (Intransitive). For intransitive verbs with past stems ending in a consonant (like *hatin* > *hat-)*, the past perfect tense, which is functionally equivalent to the English past perfect (‘I had come, you had gone’), is formed from the past stem + *i* + the past tense of *bûn* ‘to be.’ Verbs with past stems ending in a vowel (like *bûn* > *bû)* form the past perfect tense from the simple stem + the past tense of *bûn*.

هاتبووم **hâtibûm**	هاتبووین **hâtibûyn**
هاتبوویت **hâtibûy(t)**	هاتبوون **hâtibûn**
هاتبوو **hâtibû**	هاتبوون **hâtibûn**
چووبووم **chûbûm**	چووبووین **chûbûyn**
چووبوویت **chûbûy(t)**	چووبوون **chûbûn**
چووبوو **chûbû**	چووبوون **chûbûn**

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-* to the verb:

نەهاتبووم **náhâtibûm**	نەهاتبووین **náhâtibûyn**
نەهاتبوویت **náhâtibûy(t)**	نەهاتبوون **náhâtibûn**
نەهاتبوو **náhâtibû**	نەهاتبوون **náhâtibûn**

The past perfect of *bûn* ‘to be’ can be slightly irregular. In addition to the expected بووبوو *bûbû*, there is also a conjugation based on the form ببوو *bibû*, as follows:

ببووم **bibûm**	ببووین **bibûyn**
ببووی، ببوویت **bibûy(t)**	ببوون **bibûn**
ببوو **bibû**	ببوون **bibûn**

The past perfect tense is commonly used in the expression *heshtâ* + negative past perfect + *ka* (‘no sooner had…than,’ ‘scarcely had…when’).

هێشتا نەنوستبوو کە دەنگێکی بە گوێ گەیشت.	***Heshtâ nánustibû*** *ka dangèk’î ba gwe gaysht.*	**No sooner had he gone to sleep** than a sound reached his ear.

§ 30.1. The Past Perfect Tense (Transitive). The past perfect tense of

PDF 4 KURD

transitive verbs is formed, like that of intransitive verbs, from the past stem + -*i*- + the past tense of *bûn*—with the addition of the agent affixes somewhere. Past stems that end in vowels add *bû* directly without the -*i*-. Examples: *dîtin* and *dân:*

م دیتبوو **-im dîtibû**	مان دیتبوو **-mân dîtibû**	م دابوو **-im dâbû**	مان دابوو **-mân dâbû**
ت دیتبوو **-it dîtibû**	تان دیتبوو **-tân dîtibû**	ت دابوو **-it dâbû**	تان دابوو **-tân dâbû**
ی دیتبوو **-î dîtibû**	یان دیتبوو **-yân dîtibû**	ی دابوو **-î dâbû**	یان دابوو **-yân dâbû**

As with all past transitives, if there is nothing else to which the agent affixes can be attached, they go onto the end of the verb form, as in

دیتبووم **dîtibûm**	دیتبوومان **dîtibûmân**	دابووم **dâbûm**	دابوومان **dâbûmân**
دیتبووت **dîtibût**	دیتبووتان **dîtibûtân**	دابووت **dâbût**	دابووتان **dâbûtân**
دیتبووی **dîtibûy**	دیتبوویان **dîtibûyân**	دابووی **dâbûy**	دابوویان **dâbûyân**

And if there is any available preverbal matter, the agent affixes are attached thereto, as in negative and compound verbs. Examples: *dîtin* and *dar-hênân*.

نه‌مدیتبوو **námdîtibû**	نه‌ماندیتبوو **námândîtibû**
نه‌تدیتبوو **nátdîtibû**	نه‌تاندیتبوو **nátândîtibû**
نه‌یدیتبوو **náydîtibû**	نه‌یاندیتبوو **náyândîtibû**
ده‌رمهێنابوو **darimhenâbû**	ده‌رمانهێنابوو **darmânhenâbû**
ده‌رتهێنابوو **darithenâbû**	ده‌رتانهێنابوو **dartânhenâbû**
ده‌ریهێنابوو **darîhenâbû**	ده‌ریانهێنابوو **daryânhenâbû**

§ 31. The Past Subjunctive. The intransitive past subjunctive is formed like the past perfect, but instead of the past tense of *bûn*, the present subjunctive of *bûn* is added. Examples: *hâtin* and *chûn:*

هاتبم **hâtibim**	هاتبین **hâtibîn**	چووبم **chûbim**	چووبین **chûbîn**
هاتبیت **hâtibî(t)**	هاتبن **hâtibin**	چووبیت **chûbî(t)**	چووبن **chûbin**
هاتبێت **hâtibe(t)**	هاتبن **hâtibin**	چووبێت **chûbe(t)**	چووبن **chûbin**

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná*- to the verb:

PDF 4 KURD

نەهاتبم **náhâtibim**	نەهاتبین **náhâtibîn**	نەچووبم **náchûbim**	نەچووبین **náchûbîn**
نەهاتبیت **náhâtibî(t)**	نەهاتبن **náhâtibin**	نەچووبیت **náchûbî(t)**	نەچووبن **náchûbin**
نەهاتبێت **náhâtibe(t)**	نەهاتبن **náhâtibin**	نەچووبێت **náchûbe(t)**	نەچووبن **náchûbin**

Transitive verbs are similarly formed (here, as usual, a 3rd-person singular patient is assumed). Examples: *dîtin* and *dân:*

ـم دیتبێ **-im dîtibe(t)**	ـمان دیتبێ **-mân dîtibe(t)**
ـت دیتبێ **-it dîtibe(t)**	ـتان دیتبێ **-tân dîtibe(t)**
ی دیتبێ **-î dîtibe(t)**	ـیان دیتبێ **-yân dîtibe(t)**
ـم دابێ **-im dâbe(t)**	ـمان دابێ **-mân dâbe(t)**
ـت دابێ **-it dâbe(t)**	ـتان دابێ **-tân dâbe(t)**
ی دابێ **-î dâbe(t)**	ـیان دابێ **-yân dâbe(t)**

If there is no preverbal matter available, the agent affixes are attached to the verb, as follows in the examples *dîtin* and *kirdinawa:*

دیتبێتم **dîtibetim**	دیتبێتمان **dîtibetmân**
دیتبێتت **dîtibetit**	دیتبێتتان **dîtibettân**
دیتبێتی **dîtibetî**	دیتبێتیان **dîtibetyân**
کردبێتمەوە **kirdibetimawa**	کردبێتمانەوە **kirdibetmânawa**
کردبێتتەوە **kirdibetitawa**	کردبێتتانەوە **kirdibettânawa**
کردبێتیەوە **kirdibetîawa**	کردبێتیانەوە **kirdibetyânawa**

And if there is any available preverbal matter, the agent affixes are attached thereto, as in *dîtin* and *dar-henân:*

نەمدیتبێت **námdîtibe(t)**	نەماندیتبێت **námândîtibe(t)**
نەتدیتبێت **nátdîtibe(t)**	نەتاندیتبێت **nátândîtibe(t)**
تەیدیتبێت **náydîtibe(t)**	نەیاندیتبێت **náyândîtibe(t)**
دەرمهێنابێت **darimhenâbe(t)**	دەرمانهێنابێت **darmânhenâbe(t)**
دەرتهێنابێت **darithenâbe(t)**	دەرتانهێنابێت **dartânhenâbe(t)**
دەریهێنابێت **darîhenâbe(t)**	دەریانهێنابێت **daryânhenâbe(t)**

PDF 4 KURD

The past subjunctive is used (1) after all constructions that take subjunctive complements when the complement is in the past, as, for example

(a) after دەبێ *dábe* ‘must,’ as in

پیاوەکان دەبێ رۆیشتبن.	*Pyâwakân dábe royshtibin.*	The men must have gone.
دەبێ ئەو شتانەت دیتبێ (دیتبن).	*Dábe aw shitânát dîtibe (dîtibin).*	You must have seen those things.

(b) for a past tense complement to a predicate adjective. Such complementary clauses are often introduced by the conjunction کە *ka* ‘that,’ but it is optional.

رەنگە کە باران باریبێ (باریبێت).	*Rang a ka bârân bârîbe(t).*	It’s possible that it (has) rained.[1]
لازم نیە (کە) دیتبێتم.	*Lâzim niya (ka) dîtibetim.*	It’s not necessary for me to have seen it.

(2) in past clauses after superlatives (note that a relative-clause antecedent modified by a superlative is in the indefinite state, …*èk*).

یەکەمین کەسێکە کە هەوڵی دابێ …	*yekamîn kasèk a ka hawłî dâbe…*	He is the first person who has attempted…

In this type of clause the subject of the relative clause must be the same as the noun modified by the superlative. In an example such as

یەکەمین کەسێکە کە دیتوومە	*yekamîn kasèk a ka dîtûma*	he’s the first person I’ve seen

the relative clause is not subjunctive because the subjects of the main clause (‘he’) and of the relative clause (‘I’) are different.

(3) in past relative clauses after negatives (‘there isn’t anyone who has …’) or expressions with an essentially negative sense (‘there are few who have…’)

---

[1] Compare this with the present subjunctive: رەنگە کە باران ببارێت *rang a ka bârân bibâre(t)* ‘it’s possible that it will rain.’

PDF 4 KURD

کەس نیە کە ئەم کتاوەی نەخوێندبێ.	*Kas niya (ka) am ktâwáy nákhwendibe.*	There isn't anyone who hasn't read this book.
کەم کەس هەیە حکایەتە کۆن و لەمێژینەکانی کوردی لە دایەپیرە و باب و دایك و کەس و کاری خۆی نەبیستبێ.	*Kam kas haya ḥikâyat a kon u lamezhînakân i kurdî la dâyapîra u bâb u dâyk u kasukâr i khoy nábîstibe.*	Rare is the person who has not heard old Kurdish stories of long ago from his grandmother, grandfather, mother, and relatives.

(4) after (وەکوو) وەك *wak(û)* 'as though' in the past for hypothetical situations (note that *wak(û)* followed by the indicative means 'just as' for situations that have actually occurred)

وەکوو شتێکیان بیر کەوتبێتەوە...	*Wakû shitèkyân bîr kawtibetawa…*	As though they remembered something…[1]

(5) in the past protasis of a possible conditional

ئەگەر گیانی خۆم بەخت کردبێ لە پێناوی کوڕما، من هیچی کەم ناوێ.	*Agar gyân i khom bakht kirdibe la penâw i kuřim'â, min hîch i ka'm nâwe.*	If I have sacrificed my life for the sake of my son, I do not want anything else.

§ 32. The Irrealis Mood. The irrealis mood, which expresses an unfulfilled or unfulfillable contrafactual statement, usually dependent upon an unrealized conditional, is identical to the past habitual tense (*a*- or *da*- + past tense).

(a) The irrealis is used in the apodosis of contrafactual conditionals (see §33 below) and expressions that are contrafactual apodoses with ellipsis, as in

نەمەتوانی هیچی تر بکەم.	*Namatwânî hîch i tir bikam.*	I couldn't have done anything else (even if I had wanted to).

---

[1] This may be contrasted with وەکوو ئەو شتەیان بیر کەوت *wakû aw shitáyân bîr kawt* "just as they remembered that thing."

PDF 4 KURD

هەر کەسێ وای دەزانی. *Har kasè wây dazânî.*	Anybody would have known.

(b) The irrealis is used after خۆزگە *khozga* ‘would that’ for unfulfilled wishes in the past:

خۆزگە جارێکی تریش ئەهاتیت! *Khozga jârèk i tirîsh ahâtît!*	Would that you had come some other time!
خۆزگە زستان نەدەهات! *Khozga zistân nádahât!*	Would that winter had not come!

§ 33. The Past Conditional. There are two forms of the past conditional mood (‘if I had gone,’ ‘had I gone’). The first past conditional mood is formed of the subjunctive prefix *bí-* (negative *ná-*) + the simple past conjugation + *-âya*.

INTRANSITIVE

بهاتمایه **bíhâtimâya**	بهاتینایه **bíhâtînâya**
بهاتیتایه **bíhâtîtâya**	بهاتنایه **bíhâtinâya**
بهاتایه **bíhâtâya**	بهاتنایه **bíhâtinâya**

TRANSITIVE

م بنووسیایه **-im bínûsîâya**[1]	مان بنووسیایه **-mân bínûsîâya**
ت بنووسیایه **-it bínûsîâya**	تان بنووسیایه **-tân bínûsîâya**
ی بنووسیایه **-î bínûsîâya**	یان بنووسیایه **-yân bínûsîâya**

The second past conditional is similarly formed, but the *bí-* prefix is optional, and instead of the personal endings + *-áya*, the verb is formed like the past subjunctive but based on *bâ-*, a variant of the subjunctive of *bûn*.

INTRANSITIVE

هاتبام، بهاتبام **(bí)hâtibâm**	هاتباین، بهاتباین **(bí)hâtibâyn**
هاتبایت، بهاتبایت **(bí)hâtibây(t)**	هاتبان، بهاتبان **(bí)hâtibân**

---

[1] Or, if there is nothing preceding to which the agent affix can be attached, the forms are بمنووسیایه *bímnûsîâya,* بتنووسیایه *bítnûsîâya,* بینووسیایه *bíynûsîâya, &c.*

PDF 4 KURD

(بهاتبا(یه) هاتبا(یه)، **(bí)hâtibâ(ya)**	هاتبان، بهاتبان **(bí)hâtibân**

TRANSITIVE

م بنووسیبا(یه) **-im (bí)nûsîbâ(ya)**	مان بنووسبا(یه) **-mân (bí)nûsibâ(ya)**
ت بنووسبا(یه) **-it (bí)nûsibâ(ya)**	تان بنووسبا(یه) **-tân (bí)nûsibâ(ya)**
ی بنووسیبا(یه) **-î (bí)nûsîbâ(ya)**	یان بنووسبا(یه) **-yân (bí)nûsîbâ(ya)**

The past conditional mood is used in the following instances:

(a) In contrafactual conditional sentences, the protasis (the ‘if’ clause) contains a verb in the past conditional mood, and in the apodosis (the result clause) the verb is in the irrealis. Note, as in the last three examples below, that *agar* may be elipsed from the protasis.

ئەگەر دوێنێ بهاتیتایە، ئازادت دەدیت.	*Agar dwene bíhâtîtâya, Âzâdit dádît.*	If you had come yesterday, you would’ve seen Azad.
ئەگەر نامەکەت بناردایە، ئەگەیی.	*Agar nâmakat bínârdâya, ágayî.*	If you had sent the letter, it would’ve arrived.
ئەگەر بتنووسیایە، لە بیرت نەدەچوو.	*Agar bitnûsîâya, la bîrit nádachû.*	If you had written it, you wouldn’t have forgotten it.
من ئەگەر بمزانیبایە ئەوهامان بەسەر دێ، ئەم رێگایەم نەدەگرتە بەر و خۆم و باوکیشمم تووشی ئەم هەموو بەدبەختی و ماڵوێرانی‌یە نەدەکرد.	*Min agar bimzânîbâya awhâmân basar de, am regâyá’m nadagirtà bar u khom u bâwkîshimim tûsh i am hamû badbakhtî u mâłwerânîá nadakird.*	If I had known that it would happen thus to us, I wouldn’t have taken this road and I wouldn’t have caused myself and my father to encounter all this misfortune.
ماڵ بە ماڵ بگەرایتایە، بێجگە لە ئافرەت و مناڵ هیچ کەسێکی ترت نەدەدی.	*Mâł ba mâł bígařâytâya, bejiga la âfrat u minâł hîch kasèk i tirit nádadî.*	Had you gone around house by house, you wouldn’t have seen anyone other than women and children.

PDF 4 KURD

نەناسیاوێك بیدیبان، بە هەر دووكیانی دەگوت چۆڵەكە.	*Nanâsyâwèk biydîbân, ba har dûkyânî dagut chołaka.*	Were someone who didn't know to see them, he would call them both swallows.
بیوتایە بڕۆ لەو بەرزائییە خۆت بخە خوارەوە، خۆم دەخستە خوارەوە.	*Biywitâya biro l' aw barzâîá khot bikha khwârawa, khom dakhistà khwârawa.*	Had he said, "Go throw yourself off that high place," I would have thrown myself off.

(b) The past conditional mood is used for past complements to شاڵڵا *shâłłâ* ('I wish') and بریا *biryâ* ('would that,' functionally equivalent to *khozga* + irrealis [see §32, above]) for unfulfilled wishes.

شاڵڵا سواری کەرێکیشیان بکردیتایە و کۆڵان بە کۆڵانی شار بیانگێڕایتایە.	*Shâłłâ swâr i karèkîshyân bíkirdîtâya u kołân ba kołân i shâr biyângeřâytâya.*[1]	I wish they had mounted you on an ass and paraded you through every street in town.
بریا ئەو کارەی نەکردبایە.	*Biryâ aw kâráy nakirdibâya.*	Would that he hadn't done that.

§ 34. The Passive Voice. The past passive stem is constructed from the present stem of a transitive verb + *-râ*. The present passive stem is the present stem + *-re-*. For example, from the stem *bîn* 'see' comes بینران *bînrân* 'to be seen,' بینرا *bînrâ* 'it was seen,' and دەبینرێت *dábînre(t)* 'it is/can be seen'; from the stem *ner* 'send' comes نێرران *nerrân*[2] 'to be sent,' نێررا *nerrá* 'it was sent,' and دەنێررێت *dánerre(t)* 'it is sent.' The past and present passives are regularly conjugated:

PAST PASSIVE

بینرام **bînrâm**	بینراین **bînrâyn**	نێررام **nerrâm**	نێرراین **nerrâyn**
بینرایت **bînrây(t)**	بینران **bînrân**	نێررایت **nerrây(t)**	نێرران **nerrân**

---

[1] *Bíyângerâytâya* = *bí* (subjunctive prefix) + *yân* (agent affix) + *gerâ* (verb stem) + *yt* (2nd-person singular patient suffix) + *âya* (conditional suffix).

[2] Since *rr* = *ř*, the verb *nerrân* is often written alternatively as نێڕان.

PDF 4 KURD

بینرا **bînrâ**   بینران **bînrân**   نێررا **nerrâ**   نێرران **nerrân**

PRESENT PASSIVE

دەبینرێم **dábînrem**	دەبینرێین **dábînreyn**	دەنێررێم **dánerrem**	دەنێررێین **dánerreyn**
دەبینرێیت **dábînrey(t)**	دەبینرێن **dábînren**	دەنێررێیت **dánerreyt**	دەنێررێن **dánerren**
دەبینرێ **dábînre(t)**	دەبینرێن **dábînren**	دەنێررێت **dánerre(t)**	دەنێررێن **dánerren**

The past perfect passive conjugation is regularly formed as a vowel stem (‘I had been seen, I had been sent’ &c.):

بینرابووم **bînrâbûm**	بینرابووین **bînrâbûyn**
بینرابوویت **bînrâbûy(t)**	بینرابوون **bînrâbûn**
بینرابوو **bînrâbû**	بینرابوون **bînrâbûn**

نێررابووم **nerrâbûm**	نێررابووین **nerrâbûyn**
نێررابوویت **nerrâbûy(t)**	نێررابوون **nerrâbûn**
نێررابوو **nerrâbû**	نێررابوون **nerrâbûn**

Irregular passives. Although the passive is regularly and predictably formed from the vast majority of verbs, the following common verbs have irregularly formed passives:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
بیستن *bîstin* >	بیستران *bîstrân bîstre-*, as well as the regularly formed بیسران *bîsrân bîsre-*
دان *dân* >	دران *d(i)rân d(i)re-*
دیتن *dîtin* >	بیندران *bîndrân bîndre-*, as well as the regularly formed بینران *bînrân bînre-*
گرتن *girtin* >	گیران *gîrân gîre-*
گۆتن *gotin* >	گوتران *gutrân gutre-*
خستن *khistin* >	خران *khirân khire-*
خواردن *khwârdin* >	خوران *khurân khure-*
کردن *kirdin* >	کران *k(i)rân k(i)re-*

PDF 4 KURD

ناردن *nârdin* > ناردران *nârdrân nârdre-*, نێردران *nerdrân nerdre-*, and the regularly formed نێرران *nerrân nerre-*

نان *nân* > نرا *n(i)rân n(i)re-*

وتن *witin* > وتران *witrân witre-*

Other moods and tenses of the passive are regularly formed. All passive verbs are intransitive by definition and therefore never form their past tenses on the ergative model. Examples of passive constructions are as follows:

پێویسته ئەم حکایەتانە بنووسرێنەوە و لە چاپ درێن و بڵاو بکرێنەوە.	*Pewîst a am ḥikâyatâná binûsrenawa u la châp dren u biłâw bikrenawa.*	It is necessary that these stories be written down, printed, and published.
تەنەکەیەك لە بەر دوکانەکە دانرابوو.	*Tanakayèk la bar dukânaká dâ-nrâbû.*	A can had been set down in front of the shop.

§ 34.1. The Past Passive Participle. The past passive participle is regularly formed from the past passive stem in *-râ* + *-w*, giving, for example, بینراو *bînrâw* 'having been seen,' نێرراو *nerrâw* 'having been sent,' and نووسراو *nûsrâw* 'having been written.' The negative participle is regularly made by prefixing *ná-* (نەبینراو *nábînrâw* 'not having been seen,' نەنێرراو *nánerrâw* 'not having been sent').

From the past passive participle is made the present perfect passive conjugation ('I have been seen, I have been invited,' &c.):

بینراوم **bînrâwim**	بینراوین **bînrâwîn**
بینراویت **bînrâwî(t)**	بینراون **bînrâwin**
بینراوە **bînrâwa**	بینراون **bînrâwin**

بانگ کراوم **bâng krâwim**	بانگ کراوین **bâng krâwîn**
بانگ کراویت **bâng krâwî(t)**	بانگ کراون **bâng krâwin**
بانگ کراوە **bâng krâwa**	بانگ کراون **bâng krâwin**

Examples of passive constructions:

وتوو کردن *witû-kirdin* 'to iron' > وتوو کران *witû-kirân* 'to be ironed'

PDF 4 KURD

ڕێز لێگرتن *reẓ le-girtin* ‘to respect’ > ڕێز لێگیران *reẓ le-gîrân* ‘to be respected’
نووسینەوە *nûsînawa* ‘to write down’ > نووسرانەوە *nûsrânawa* ‘to be written down’

بەرگە پاك و تەمیزە وتووكراوەكەی	*barg a pâk u tamîẓ a* ***witû-kirâw****akáy*	his nice, clean, **ironed** clothes
پیاوێكی بەرزی ڕێزلێگیراو	*pyâwèk i barẓ i* ***reẓlegîrâw***	an eminent, **respected** man
زۆربەی زۆری ئەم حكایەتانە نەنووسراونەوە.	*Zorba i ẓor i am ḥikâya-tâná* ***nanûsrâwinawa****.*	The vast majority of these stories **have not been written down**.

§ 35. Postposed Verbal Complements. With verbs of motion many verbal complements are postposed, i.e. they come after the verb and are linked it by the unstressed vowel *à*. For example, *chûn* is ‘to go,’ but *chûnà mâłè* is ‘to go home.’ The linking vowel occurs in all persons in all tenses. In the present tense the *t* inherent in the 2nd and 3rd persons singular is recovered before the *à*. An example of the present tense is that of *chûnà mâłè:*

دەچمە ماڵێ **dáchimà mâłè**	دەچینە ماڵێ **dáchînà mâłè**
دەچیتە ماڵێ **dáchîtà mâłè**	دەچنە ماڵێ **dáchinà mâłè**
دەچێتە ماڵێ **dáchetà mâłè**	دەچنە ماڵێ **dáchinà mâłè**

In the past tenses, the linking *à* also comes between the verb and its complement. The *t* inherent in the 2nd person singular is always recovered. An example of the paradigm for verbs with consonant-final stems is *hâtinà darè*, ‘to come out.’

هاتمە دەرێ **hâtimà darè**	هاتینە دەرێ **hâtînà darè**
هاتیتە دەرێ **hâtîtà darè**	هاتنە دەرێ **hâtinà darè**
هاتە دەرێ **hâtà darè**	هاتنە دەرێ **hâtinà darè**

In 3rd-person singular past verbs ending in -*û* and -*î*, a *t* may be infixed (depending upon dialect) between the verb and the linking *à*, as in *chûnà shârawa* ‘to go to town’ and *gayînà mâława* ‘to reach home.’

PDF 4 KURD

چوومە شارەوە	**chûmà shârawa**	چووینە شارەوە	**chûynà shârawa**
چوویتە شارەوە	**chûytà shârawa**	چوونە شارەوە	**chûnà shârawa**
چووتە شارەوە	**chûtà shârawa**[1]	چوونە شارەوە	**chûnà shârawa**
گەییمە ماڵەوە	**gayîmà mâława**	گەییینە ماڵەوە	**gayîynà mâława**
گەیییتە ماڵەوە	**gayîytà mâława**	گەیینە ماڵەوە	**gayînà mâława**
گەییتە ماڵەوە	**gayîtà mâława**	گەیینە ماڵەوە	**gayînà mâława**

In past verbs that end in -*â*, a *y* is infixed between the verb and the linking *à*, as in *dânà yek* ‘to throw together’:

دامە یەك	**dâmà yek**	دامانە یەك	**dâmânà yek**
داتە یەك	**dâtà yek**	داتانە یەك	**dâtânà yek**
دایە یەك	**dâyà yek**	دایانە یەك	**dâyânà yek**
م دایە یەك	**-im dâyà yek**	مان دایە یەك	**-mân dâyà yek**
ت دایە یەك	**-it dâyà yek**	تان دایە یەك	**-tân dâyà yek**
ی دایە یەك	**-î dâyà yek**	یان دایە یەك	**-yân dâyà yek**

With verbs in -*awa*, the -*awa* suffix takes precedence over the directional -*à*, which is deleted. Compare the following:

هاتمە هۆش	*Hâtimà hosh.*	I came to consciousness.
هاتمەوە هۆش	*Hâtimawa hosh.*	I regained consciousness.

When a postposed directional complement is turned into a preposed pronominal enclitic, the directional -*à* becomes -*è*.

ئەیەوێ بگاتە شار > ئەیەوێ بیگاتێ	*Ayawe bigât**à shâr*** > *Ayawe bi**y**gât**è**.*	He wants to get **to town** > He wants to get **to it**.
هەرگیز ناگەمە ئەو کێوە دوورانە > نایانگەمێ	*Hargîz nâgam**à aw kew a dûrâná*** > *nâ**yân**gam**è**.*	I’ll never make it **to those far-away mountains** > I’ll never make it **to them**.

---

[1] چووە شارەوە *Chûà shârawa* also exists in some regions.

PDF 4 KURD

This also happens occasionally with the verb دان بـــە *dân ba* ‘to give to,’ in which case the preposition *ba* is deleted, its place taken by the directional -*è*. A full conjugation of this phenomenon is illustrated by the following:

ئەمەت دەدەمێ **ama’t dadamè** ‘I’ll give this to you’
ئەمەم دەدەیتێ **ama’m dadaytè** ‘you’ll give this to me’
ئەمەیان دەداتێ **ama’yân dadâtè** ‘s/he’ll give this to them’
ئەمەی دەدەینێ **ama’y dadaynè** ‘we’ll give this to him/her’
ئەمەمان دەدەنێ **ama’mân dadanè** ‘you’ll give this to us’
ئەمەتان دەدەن **ama’tân dadanè** ‘they’ll give this to you (pl)’

Examples:

شتێك بە سؤالكەرەكان بدات > شتێکیان بداتێ	*Shitèk **ba suâlkarakân** bídât > Shitèk**yân** bídâtè.*	Let him give something **to the beggars** > Let him give **them** something.
شتێکم بەو پیاوە دا > دامێ	*Shitèkim **b’ aw pyâwá** dâ > dâmè*	I gave something **to that man** > I gave it **to him**.
دە دراوم بدەرێ.	*Da dirâw**im** bidar**è**.*	Give **me** ten dirhems.
دە هەزار لیرەت دەدەمێ.	*Da hazâr lîra**t** dadam**è**.*	I’ll give **you** ten thousand liras.

§ 36. Factitive Verbs. The factitive infinitive is formed from the present stem of the intransitive (if the intransitive stem ends in -*e*, it is dropped) + -*(y)ândin*. The present stem of all such verbs is in -*(y)en*-. Examples are:

روخان	*rukhân* (pres. stem *rukhe-)* ‘to be destroyed’ >	روخاندن	*rukhândin rukhen*- ‘to destroy’
مردن	*mirdin* (pres. stem *mir-)* ‘to die’ >	مراندن	*mirândin miren*- ‘to make die, to kill’
گەیشتن	*gayshtin* (pres. stem *ga-)* ‘to reach’ >	گەیاندن	*gayândin gayen*- ‘to make reach, to deliver’
تێ گەیشتن	*te-gayshtin* (pres. stem *te-ga-)* ‘to understand’ >	تێ گەیاندن	*te-gayândin te-gayen*- ‘to make understand’

PDF 4 KURD

رێوی خێرا راکێشا و خۆی مراند.	*rewî kherâ râkeshâ u khoy mirând.*	The fox quickly stretched out and played ’possum (“made himself dead”).
لاوەکان خۆیان گەیاندێ.	*lâwakân khoyân gayândè.*	The youths got themselves to him.
ئەگەر حەزم لەم هاتنە نەکردایە، دەمتوانی بە جۆرێك تێی بگەیێنم.	*agar ḥazim l’ am hâtiná nakirdâya, damtwânî ba jorèk tey bigayenim.*	If I hadn’t wanted to come on this trip, I could have made him understand somehow.

PDF 4 KURD

OTHER SYNTACTICAL FEATURES

§ 37. Expressions of Temporal Duration. For statives (‘X state has been going on for X amount of time’), the Kurdish temporal expression consists of: the temporal + -*(y)a* + present perfect tense verb:

چەند ساڵێکە باسی چۆنێتی یەکگرتنی شێوەکانی زمانی کوردی هاتووەتە گۆڕێ.	*Chand sâłèk* ***a*** *bâs i chonetî i yekgirtin i shewakân i zimân i kurdî* ***hâtûatà*** *gořè.*	For several years now discussion of how to unite the dialects of the Kurdish language has come to the fore.
چەند ساعەتێکە لێرە نیشتوومە.	*Chand sâ‘atek* ***a*** *l’ era* ***nîshtûma****.*	I’ve been sitting here for several hours.

For present statives with the verb ‘to be’ (‘he’s been here for X amount of time’) the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + present copula:

چوار ساڵە لێرەیە.	*Chwâr sâł* ***a*** *l’era* ***ya****.*	He’s been here for four years.

For on-going, progressive action continuing to the present (‘it’s been raining for X amount of time’) the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + present progressive verb.

چەند رۆژێکە باران دەبارێ.	*Chand rozhèk* ***a*** *bârân* ***dabâre****.*	It’s been raining for several days.
زۆر لە مێژووە دەزانم …	*Zor la mezhû* ***a dazânim****…*	I’ve known for a very long time…

For negatives (‘I haven’t done X for X amount of time’) the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + negative present perfect verb.

چوار ساڵە نەماندیتوونە.	*Chwâr sâł a námândîtûna.*	We haven’t seen them for four years.
چەند رۆژێکە باران نەباریوە.	*Chand rozhèk a bârân nábârîwa.*	It hasn’t rained for several days.

PDF 4 KURD

For the past (‘something had been going on for X amount of time’), the formula is: temporal + *(da)bû* + past progressive for affirmative or past perfect for the negative (‘I hadn’t done X for X amount of time’):

چەند رۆژێك دەبوو باران دەباری.	*Chand rozhèk dabû bârân dabârî.*	It had been raining for several days.
چەند رۆژێك بوو باران نەباریبوو.	*Chand rozhèk bû bârân nábârîbû.*	It hadn’t rained for several days.
نزیکەی سێ چوار مانگ دەبوو نەمدیتبوو.	*Nizîka i se–chwâr mâng dabû namdîtibû.*	I hadn’t seen him for nearly three or four months.
زۆر لە مێژوو بوو دەمزانی …	*Zor la mezhû bû damzânî…*	I had known for a long time that…

§ 38. Subordinating Conjunctions. Subordinating conjunctions generally consist of prepositions + *awaî (ka),* where the relative *ka*, as in relative clauses (see §39), is optional.

Conjunctions that mean ‘after,’ like لە دوائیا کە *(la) dwâîâ ka*, دوای ئەوەی کە *dwâ i awaî ka*, and لە پاش ئەوەی کە *(la) pâsh awaî ka,* are followed by an indicative verb, present or past according to sense.

لەدوائیا کە چاك ئەبیتەوە ئەیبینی.	*la dwâî’â ka châk abîtawa, aybînî.*	After you are well again, you’ll see him.
دوای ئەوەی کە شار خرۆشا	*dwâ i awaî ka shâr khiroshâ, …*	After the city was thrown into an uproar, …

Conjunctions that mean ‘before’ (بەر لەوەی کە *bar l’ awaî ka*, پێش ئەوەی کە *pesh awaî ka*) are invariably followed by a present subjunctive verb. The correct tense for English translation is gained from context.

بەر لەوەی لافاوەکە هورژم بێنێتە سەر ژوورەکانمان منداڵەکان پێکەوە یاریان ئەکرد.	*bar l’ awaî lâfâwaká hurizhm* ***benet****à sar zhûrakânmân, minâłakân pekawa yârîyân akird.*	Before the torrent **hurled** down on our rooms, the children were playing together.

Other conjunctions that demand a subjunctive verb include *ba be awaî (ka)* ‘without’

PDF 4 KURD

به بێ ئەوەی بیبینم دەمزانی کە…	***ba be awaî biybînim**, dámzânî ka…*	**Without my seeing it**, I knew that…

and (کە) بۆ ئەوەی *bo awaî (ka)* ‘in order that’

ئەو یەکەم رۆژی بۆ خۆراهێنان، بۆ مەشق دانابوو، بۆ ئەوەی پێ و پلمان رابێت و لە هەموو روویێکەوە خۆمان بۆ ئەو رێگە دوور و درێژە ئامادە بکەین.	*aw yekam rozh’î bo khorâhenan, bo mashq dânâbû, **bo awaî** pe u pilmân **râbet** u la hamû rûyèkawa khomân bo aw rega dûr u drezhá âmâda **bikayn**.*	He had set that first day for getting ourselves accustomed, for practice, **in order that** our legs and feet **become accustomed** and that **we make** ourselves ready in every way for that long road.
بۆ ئەوەی پاکی و بێگوناهی خۆی بسەلمێنێ…	***bo awaî** pâkî u begunâhî i khoy **bisałmene**…*	**in order that he prove** his innocence…

A short list of common subordinating conjunctions:

بەو مەرجەی (کە)	*b’ aw marjáî (ka)* provided that, on condition that (+ subj.)
بە بی ئەوەی (کە)	*ba be awaî (ka)* without (+ pres. subj.)
بەر لەوەی (کە)	*bar l’ awaî (ka)* before (+ pres. subj.)
بو ئەوەی (کە)	*bo awaî (ka)* in order that (+ pres. subj.)
چونکوو	*chunkû* since
دوای ئەوەی (کە)	*dwâ i awaî (ka)* after
جا کە	*jâ ka* inasmuch as
کە	*ka* when
کاتێ، کاتێك	*kâtè(k)* when
پاش ئەمەی/ئەوەی (کە)	*pâsh amaî/awaî (ka)* after
پێش ئەوەی (کە)	*pesh awaî (ka)* before (+ pres. subj.)

§ 39. Relative Clauses. Relative clauses in Kurdish are often, but not necessarily, introduced by the relative pronoun *ka* ‘who, which, that.’ Syntactically Kurdish relative clauses do not differ significantly from Persian relative clauses, with the exception of the omission of the relative pronoun,

PDF 4 KURD

which does not happen in Persian. The antecedent of any relative pronoun, expressed or omitted, is usually but not necessarily marked by enclitic *-î, -e,* or *-èk*. Generally speaking, the relative pronoun *ka* may be omitted, particularly when it functions as the object of the verb in the relative clause. The relative pronoun is not often omitted when it functions as the subject (logical or real) of the verb in the relative clause—as in English ('the man whom I met' and 'the man with whom I went' may be equally well expressed as 'the man I met' and 'the man I went with,' but 'the man who came' cannot become *'the man came').

If the syntactical function of the relative pronoun within the relative clause is other than subject of the verb, the grammatical place is marked within the clause by a "referent pronoun" that refers back to the relative. The verb inside a relative clause modifying a true indefinite or nonspecific antecedent is in the subjunctive, as in Persian. Examples follow.

سەری کوڕەکەی کە نوستبوو لە سەر رانی برد.	*sar i kuřakâî* ***ka nustibû****, la sar rânî bird.*	She took the head of the boy, **who had fallen asleep**, from her lap.

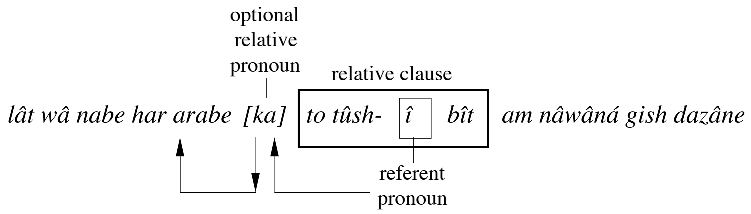
In this example the relative pronoun *ka* functions as the subject of *nustibû*—and is therefore not omissible—and the antecedent is marked by *-î*.

یەکێك لە لاوەکان کە بۆ فرۆشتنی بەرهەم چووبووە شار گەڕایەوە و مژگێنی پێ دان.	*yekèk la lâwakân,* ***ka bo froshtin i barham chûbûà shâr****, gařâyawa u mizgenî pe dân.*	One of the young men, **who had gone to town to sell produce**, returned and gave them the good news.

Here the relative pronoun *ka* refers to the antecedent *yekèk la lâwakân*. The *-èk* ending on *yekèk* functions as the marker of the antecedent.

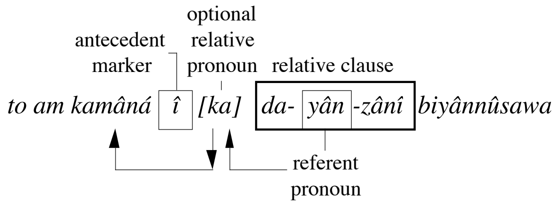
لات وا نەبێ هەر عەرەبێ تۆ تووشی بیت ئەم ناوانە گش دەزانێ.	*lât wâ nabe har 'arabè to tûshî bît, am nâwâná gish dazâne.*	Don't think every Arab you meet knows all these names.

PDF 4 KURD


optional
relative
pronoun
relative clause
lât wâ nabe har arabe [ka] to tûsh- î bît am nâwâná gish dazâne
referent
pronoun

In this example the referent pronoun *-î* complementing *tûshî* refers to the antecedent, *har arab*, marked with the enclitic *-e*. The relative pronoun is omitted. The verb *tûsh-bît* is in the subjunctive because the antecedent is nonspecific and the clause is hypothetical ('any and every Arab you may meet'[1]).

تۆ ئەم کەمانەی دەیانزانی بیاننووسەوە.	*to am **kamânâî dayânzânî**,* *biyânnûsawa.*	Write down these few **things you know**.


optional
antecedent
marker
relative
pronoun
relative clause
to am kamâná î [ka] da- yân -zânî biyânnûsawa
referent
pronoun

In this example the referent pronoun *-yân* in *dayânzânî* refers to the antecedent *am kamâná*, which is marked as antecedent by *-î* without the relative pronoun. The *-yân-* in *biyânnûsawa* is a resumptive object pronoun, which, strictly speaking, is optional since the object of *binûsawa* has already been stated (*am kamâná*). Such resumptive object pronouns are often used after a relative clause to make clear that the antecedent of the relative clause is actually the object of the main verb.

لەوانەی گلەی لێ کردوون جیاوازە.	*l' awânaî gilay le kirdûn,* *jyâwâz a.*	It is different from those things he has complained of.

---

[1] Compare the hypothetical subjunctive clause with the actual هەر عەرەبێ من تووشی بوومە *har 'arabè min tûshî bûma* "every Arab I've met," where the antecedent is definite and the verb of the relative clause describes something that has actually happened.

PDF 4 KURD

Here the referent pronoun -*n*, the “bumped” complement of the preposition *le*, refers to the antecedent *awâna*, which is so marked by -*î* without the relative pronoun.

زۆری لە خۆی ئەکرد کە ئەو دوو فرمێسکە گەورەیەی ئەیانەوێ بکەونە خوارێ بیانشارێتەوە.	*zorî la khoy akird ka aw dû firmesk a gawrayáî ayânawe bikawinà khwârè biyânshâretawa.*	He was forcing himself to hide those two large tears, which were about to dribble down.

In this example the antecedent of the relative clause, *dû firmesk a gawrayá*, is marked by *î*, and the relative pronoun is omitted. The -*yân*- in ***biyân**shâretawa* is another example of a resumptive object pronoun.

بیرم لە هەر شتێك کردبێتەوە، بیرم لە مردن نەمکردبووەوە.	*bîrim la har shitèk kirdibetawa, bîrim la mirdin namkirdibûawa.*	Whatever I had thought about, I hadn’t thought about dying.

In this example, هەر شتێك *har shitèk* ‘whatever’ produces an indefinite relative clause; thus the verb *bîrim kirdibetawa* is subjunctive, and in this case, past subjunctive.

§ 40. Directional Nouns in *è*. Certain nouns become quasi-adverbial directionals with the addition of unstressed -*è*. Among these are ماڵێ *mâłè* ‘homeward,’ ژوورێ *zhûrè* ‘inward,’ and دەرێ *darè* ‘outward.’ These directionals tend to occur as postposed directionals after -*à* (see §35).

§ 41. Orthographic Peculiarities of Sorani Kurdish. For the most part, Sorani Kurdish is written in a “phonetic” version of the Arabic alphabet in which all but one of the vowels are given graphic representations. Only the vowel *i* is not represented internally in a word.

The only real inconsistency in the writing system is the representation of the sequence *ye*, which is written یـە, as though it were *ya,* which is written the same. Both the writing of *ye* and the lack of indication of *i* go back to early twentieth-century attempts to render Ottoman spelling more “phonetic” and actually have nothing to do with Kurdish, but since Kurdish spelling was devised during the late Ottoman period, it has been saddled with یـە for *ye* and nothing for *i*.

PDF 4 KURD

Writers of Kurdish, as well as writers of other languages using the Arabic alphabet, are loathe to write several *y*'s in sequence. It is probably safe to say that a word like *gayîyn* 'we arrived,' which technically should be spelled گـەیـیـین, with three *y*'s in a row (one for the first *y*, a second for the *î*, and a third for the second *y)*, will never be seen with all three *y*'s. At most it will appear as گەیین, the same spelling as *gayîn* 'you/they arrived.' The same applies to the sequence *-î i,* i.e. a word ending in *î* followed by the *i* of the *izâfa:* rarely is this sequence spelled with two *y*'s; generally the *-î* ending of the word is spelled with *y* and the *izâfa y* is omitted, as in

بۆ دڵنەرمی ئەوانە	*bo diłnarmî i awâna*	for placating them
حـکایـەت ئـەنـدازە و بارســتـایی دیاری‌کراوی نیە.	*ḥikâyat andâza u bâristâî i dyârîkrâwî niya.*	A story does not have a clearly defined size or length.

In the reading passages occasionally a *zer* vowel point has been inserted under the *y* (یِ) to indicate the missing vowel of the *izâfa.*

The same applies to the sequence *îy,* where a word ends in *î* and is followed by the 3rd-person singular pronominal enclitic (possessive or agent affix). Occasionally the sequence is spelled in full with the correct number of *y*'s, but normally only one *y* is written. This is particularly true when there would be three *y*'s, as in

ماڵئاوایی لە خەڵك كرد.	*mâłâwâîy la khałk kird.*	He bade farewell to the people.

The sequence *îa*, as in *tânj**îa**ká* 'the hunting dog,' is written as either تانجیەکە or تانجی یەکە, as though the sequence were *î-ya*. The sequence *îèk,* given the orthographic peculiarity of the *-ek* suffix after vowels, may be written as *îek* or as *îyek,* as in *tânjîèk* 'a hunting dog,' which can be written either as تانجیێك or more commonly as تانجی یەك.

There is also no unanimity among writers of Kurdish with regard to the writing of compound words. Some put all the elements together, and others leave each element separate. Thus, *diłnarmî* is spelled either دڵ نـــــــــەرمی or دڵنەرمی, and *dyârîkrâw* is either دیاری‌کراو or دیاریکراو. This is rarely troubling to the reader, but the longer compounds like سـەرنجـڕاکـێـش *sarinjřâkesh* 'attrac-

PDF 4 KURD

tive' become, the more difficult they become to recognize.

§ 42. Vowel Contractions. (1) The sequence *-îa-* is often contracted to *-e-*, as in ئەمەریکیەکە *amarîk**îa**ká* > ئەمەریکێکە *amarîk**e**ká*.

(2) The sequences *-ûwa-* and *-ûa-* can be contracted to *-o-*, as in بووەتەوە ***bûwa**tawa* > بۆتەوە *b**o**tawa*, دیتووەتەوە *dît**ûa**tawa* > دیتۆتەوە *dît**o**tawa*, and ببووەوە *bib**ûa**wa* > ببۆوە *bib**o**wa*.

PDF 4 KURD

Verb Tenses and Moods

Present Habitual/Progressive (*kawtin* ‘fall,’ *nûsîn* ‘write,’ & *qsa-kirdin* ‘speak’)

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
دەکەوم	*dákawim*	دەکەوین	*dákawîn*
دەکەویت	*dákawî(t)*	دەکەون	*dákawin*
دەکەوێت	*dákawe(t)*	دەکەون	*dákawin*
ناکەوم	*nâkawim*	ناکەوین	*nâkawîn*
نەدەکەوم	*nádakawim*	نەدەکەوین	*nádakawîn*
دەنووسم	*dánûsim*	دەنووسین	*dánûsîn*
دەنووسیت	*dánûsî(t)*	دەنووسن	*dánûsin*
دەنووسێت	*dánûse(t)*	دەنووسن	*dánûsin*
نانووسم	*nânûsim*	نانووسین	*nânûsîn*
نەدەنووسم	*nádanûsim*	نەدەنووسین	*nádanûsîn*
قسە دەکەم	*qsa dákam*	قسە دەکەین	*qsa dákayn*
قسە دەکیت	*qsa dákay(t)*	قسە دەکەن	*qsa dákan*
قسە دەکات	*qsa dákâ(t)*	قسە دەکەن	*qsa dákan*
قسە ناکەم	*qsa nâkam*	قسە ناکەین	*qsa nâkayn*
قسە نەدەکەم	*qsa nádakam*	قسە نەدەکەین	*qsa nádakayn*

Present Subjunctive (‘that I fall,’ &c.)

بکەوم	*bíkawim*	بکەوین	*bíkawîn*
بکەویت	*bíkawî(t)*	بکەون	*bíkawin*
بکەوێت	*bíkawe(t)*	بکەون	*bíkawin*
نەکەوم	*nákawim*	نەکەوین	*nákawîn*
بنووسم	*bínûsim*	بنووسین	*bínûsîn*
بنووسیت	*bínûsî(t)*	بنووسن	*bínûsin*
بنووسێت	*bínûse(t)*	بنووسن	*bínûsin*
نەنووسم	*nánûsim*	نەنووسین	*nánûsîn*

PDF 4 KURD

قسه (بـ)کەم	*qsa (bí)kam*	قسه (بـ)کەین	*qsa (bí)kayn*
قسه (بـ)کەیت	*qsa (bí)kay(t)*	قسه (بـ)بکەن	*qsa (bí)kan*
قسه (بـ)کات	*qsa (bí)kâ(t)*	قسه (بـ)کەن	*qsa (bí)kan*
قسه نەکەم	*qsa nákam*	قسه نەکەین	*qsa nákayn*

Simple Past (‘I fell,’ &c.)

FOR INTRANSITIVE: کەوتن *KAWTIN* ‘TO FALL’

کەوتم	*káwtim*	کەوتین	*káwtîn*
کەوتیت	*káwtî(t)*	کەوتن	*káwtin*
کەوت	*káwt*	کەوتن	*káwtin*
نەکەوتم	*nákawtim*	نەکەوتین	*nákawtîn*
نەکەوتیت	*nákawtî(t)*	نەکەوتن	*nákawtin*
نەکەوت	*nákawt*	نەکەوتن	*nákawtin*

FOR TRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY AGENT AFFIX: نووسین *NÛSÎN* ‘TO WRITE’

نووسیم	*nûsîm*	نووسیمان	*nûsîmân*
نووسییت	*nûsîy(t)*	نووسیتان	*nûsîtân*
نووسیی	*nûsîy*	نووسیان	*nûsîyân*
نەمنووسی	*námnûsî*	نەمانووسی	*námânnûsî*
نەتنووسی	*nátnûsî*	نەتانووسی	*nátânnûsî*
نەینووسی	*náynûsî*	نەیانووسی	*náyânnûsî*

FOR AGENT AFFIX PRECEDING A TRANSITIVE VERB: قسه کردن *QSA-KIRDIN* ‘TO SPEAK’

قسەم کرد	*qsám kird*	قسەمان کرد	*qsámân kird*
قسەت کرد	*qsát kird*	قسەتان کرد	*qsátân kird*
قسەی کرد	*qsáy kird*	قسەیان کرد	*qsáyân kird*
قسەم نەکرد	*qsam nákird*	قسەمان نەکرد	*qsamân nákird*
قسەت نەکرد	*qsat nákird*	قسەتان نەکرد	*qsatân nákird*
قسەی نەکرد	*qsay nákird*	قسەیان نەکرد	*qsayân nákird*

Past Habitual/Progressive (= Irrealis) (‘I used to fall,’ ‘I would have fallen,’ &c.)

PDF 4 KURD

دەکەوتم	*dákawtim*	دەکەوتین	*dákawtîn*
دەکەوتیت	*dákawtî(t)*	دەکەوتن	*dákawtin*
دەکەوت	*dákawt*	دەکەوتن	*dákawtin*
نەئەکەوتم	*náakawtim* (Sul.)	نەئەکەوتین	*náakawtîn* (Sul.)
نەدەکەوتم	*nádakawtim*	نەدەکەوتین	*nádakawtîn*
دەمنووسی	*dámnûsî*	دەماننووسی	*dámânnûsî*
دەتنووسی	*dátnûsî*	دەتاننووسی	*dátânnûsî*
دەینووسی	*dáynûsî*	دەیاننووسی	*dáyânnûsî*
نەمەنووسی	*námanûsî* (Sul.)	نەمانەنووسی	*námânanûsî* (Sul.)
نەمدەنووسی	*námdanûsî*	نەماندەنووسی	*námândanûsî*
قسەم دەکرد	*qsam dákird*	قسەمان دەکرد	*qsamân dákird*
قسەت دەکرد	*qsat dákird*	قسەتان دەکرد	*qsatân dákird*
قسەی دەکرد	*qsay dákird*	قسەیان دەکرد	*qsayân dákird*
قسەم نەئەکرد	*qsam náakird* (Sul.)	قسەمان نەئەکرد	*qsamân náakird*
قسەم نەدەکرد	*qsam nádakird*	قسەمان نەدەکرد	*qsamân nádakird*

Present Perfect (‘I have fallen’, &c.)

کەوتووم	*kawtûm*	کەوتووین	*kawtûyn*
کەوتوویت	*kawtûy(t)*	کەوتوون	*kawtûn*
کەوتووە	*kawtûa*	کەوتوون	*kawtûn*
نەکەوتووم	*nákawtûm*	نەکەوتووین	*nákawtûyn*
نووسیومە	*nûsîwima*	نووسیومانە	*nûsîwmâna*
نووسیوتە	*nûsîwita*	نووسیوتانە	*nûsîwtâna*
نووسیویەتی	*nûsîwyatî*	نووسیویانە	*nûsîwyâna*
نەمنووسیوە	*námnûsîwa*	نەماننووسیوە	*námânnûsîwa*
قسەم کردووە	*qsam kirdûa*	قسەمان کردووە	*qsamân kirdûa*
قسەت کردووە	*qsat kirdûa*	قسەتان کردووە	*qsatân kirdûa*
قسەی کردووە	*qsay kirdûa*	قسەیان کردووە	*qsayân kirdûa*
قسەم نەکردووە	*qsam nákirdûa*	قسەمان نەکردووە	*qsamân nákirdûa*

Past Perfect (‘I had fallen,’ &c.)

کەوتبووم	*kawtibûm*	کەوتبووین	*kawtibûyn*
کەوتبوویت	*kawtibûy(t)*	کەوتبوون	*kawtibûn*
کەوتبوو	*kawtibû*	کەوتبوون	*kawtibûn*
نەکەوتبووم	*nákawtibûm*	نەکەوتبووین	*nákawtibûyn*
نووسبووم	*nûsibûm*	نووسبوومان	*nûsibûmân*
نووسبووت	*nûsibût*	نووسبووتان	*nûsibûtân*
نووسیبووی	*nûsîbûy*	نووسبوویان	*nûsibûyân*
نەمنووسبوو	*námnûsibû*	نەمانووسبوو	*námânnûsibû*
قسەم کردبوو	*qsam kirdibû*	قسەمان کردبوو	*qsamân kirdibû*
قسەت کردبوو	*qsat kirdibû*	قسەتاان کردبوو	*qsatân kirdibû*
قسەی کردبوو	*qsay kirdibû*	قسەیان کردبوو	*qsayân kirdibû*
قسەم نەکردبوو	*qsam nákirdibû*	قسەمان نەکردبوو	*qsamân nákirdibû*

Past Subjunctive (‘that I have fallen,’ &c.)

کەوتبم	*kawtibim*	کەوتبن	*kawtibîn*
کەوتبیت	*kawtibî(t)*	کەتبن	*kawtibin*
کەوتبێت	*kawtibe(t)*	کەوتبن	*kawtibin*
نەکەوتبم	*nákawtibim*	نەکەوتبین	*nákawtibîn*
نووسیبێتم	*nûsîbetim*	نووسیبێتمان	*nûsîbetmân*
نووسیبێتت	*nûsîbetit*	نووسیبێتتان	*nûsîbettân*
نووسیبێتی	*nûsîbetî*	نووسیبێتیان	*nûsîbetyân*
نەمنووسیبیت	*námnûsîbet*	نەمانووسیبێت	*námânnûsîbet*
قسەم کردبێ	*qsam kirdibe*	قسەمان کردبێ	*qsamân kirdibe*
قسەت کردبێ	*qsat kirdibe*	قسەتان کردبێ	*qsatân kirdibe*
قسەی کردبێ	*qsay kirdibe*	قسەیان کردبێ	*qsayân kirdibe*
قسەم نەکردبێ	*qsam nákirdibe*	قسەمان نەکردبێ	*qsamân nákirdibe*

Past Conditional I (‘had I fallen,’ &c.)

بکەوتمایە	*bíkawtimâya*	بکەوتینایە	*bíkawtînâya*

PDF 4 KURD

بکەوتیتایە	*bíkawtîtâya*	بکەوتنایە	*bíkawtinâya*
بکەوتایە	*bíkawtâya*	بکەوتنایە	*bíkawtinâya*
نەکەوتمایە	*nákawtimâya*	نەکەوتینایە	*nákawtînâya*
بمنووسیایە	*bímnûsîâya*	بماننووسیایە	*bímânnûsîâya*
بتنووسیایە	*bítnûsîâya*	بتاننووسیایە	*bítânnûsîâya*
بینووسیایە	*bíynûsîâya*	بیاننووسیایە	*bíyânnûsîâya*
نەمنووسیایە	*námnûsîâya*	نەماننووسیایە	*námânnûsîâya*
قسەم بکردایە	*qsam bíkirdâya*	قسەمان بکردایە	*qsamân bíkirdâya*
قسەت بکردایە	*qsat bíkirdâya*	قسەتان بکردایە	*qsatân bíkirdâya*
قسەی بکردایە	*qsay bíkirdâya*	قسەیان بکردایە	*qsayân bíkirdâya*
قسەم نەکردایە	*qsam nákirdâya*	قسەمان نەکردایە	*qsamân nákirdâya*

Past Conditional II (‘were I to have fallen,’ &c.)

بکەوتبام	*bíkawtibâm*	بکەوتباین	*bíkawtibâyn*
بکەوتبای	*bíkawtibây*	بکەوتبان	*bíkawtibân*
بکەوتبا	*bíkawtibâ*	بکەوتبان	*bíkawtibân*
نەکەوتبام	*nákawtibâm*	نەکەوتباین	*nákawtibâyn*
بمنووسیبا	*bímnûsîbâ*	بماننووسیبا	*bímânnûsîbâ*
بتنووسیبا	*bítnûsîbâ*	بتاننووسیبا	*bítânnûsîbâ*
بینووسیبا	*bíynûsîbâ*	بیاننووسیبا	*bíyânnûsîbâ*
نەمنووسیبا	*námnûsîbâ*	نەماننووسیبا	*námânnûsîbâ*
قسەم بکردبا	*qsam bíkirdibâ*	قسەمان بکردبا	*qsamân bíkirdibâ*
قسەت بکردبا	*qsat bíkirdibâ*	قسەتان بکردبا	*qsatân bíkirdibâ*
قسەی بکردبا	*qsay bíkirdibâ*	قسەیان بکردبا	*qsayân bíkirdibâ*
قسەم نەکردبا	*qsam nákirdibâ*	قسەمان نەکردبا	*qsamân nákirdibâ*

PASSIVE TENSES AND MOODS

Present Passive (‘I am seen’)

دەبینرێم	*dabînrem*	دەبینرێین	*dabînreyn*
دەبینرێیت	*dabînrey(t)*	دەبینرێن	*dabînren*

PDF • PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD • PDF 4 KURD

دەبینرێت	*dabînre(t)*	دەبینرێن	*dabînren*
نابینرێم	*nâbînrem*	نابینرێین	*nâbînreyn*
نەدەبینرێم	*nádabînrem*	نەدەبینرێین	*nádabînreyn*

Present Subjunctive Passive (‘that I be seen’)

ببینرێم	*bíbînrem*	ببینرێین	*bíbînreyn*
ببینرێیت	*bíbînrey(t)*	ببینرێن	*bíbînren*
ببینرێت	*bíbînre(t)*	ببینرێن	*bíbînren*
نەبینرێم	*nábînrem*	نەبینرێین	*nábînreyn*

Past Passive (‘I was seen’)

بینرام	*bînrâm*	بینراین	*bînrâyn*
بینرایت	*bînrây(t)*	بینران	*bînrân*
بینرا	*bînrâ*	بینران	*bînrân*
نەبینرام	*nábînrâm*	نەبینراین	*nábînrâyn*

Present Perfect Passive (‘I have been seen’)

بینراوم	*bînrâwim*	بینراوین	*bînrâwîn*
بینراویت	*bînrâwî(t)*	بینراون	*bînrâwin*
بینراوە	*bînrâwa*	بینراون	*bînrâwin*
نەبینراوم	*nábînrâwim*	نەبینراوین	*nábînrâwîn*

Past Perfect Passive (‘I had been seen’)

بینرابووم	*bînrâbûm*	بینرابووین	*bînrâbûyn*
بینرابوویت	*bînrâbûy(t)*	بینرابوون	*bînrâbûn*
بینرابوو	*bînrâbû*	بینرابوون	*bînrâbûn*
نەبینرابووم	*nábînrâbûm*	نەبینرابووین	*nábînrâbûyn*

Past Subjunctive Passive (‘that I have been seen’)

بینرابم	*bînrâbim*	بینرابین	*bînrâbîn*
بینرابیت	*bînrâbî(t)*	بینرابن	*bînrâbin*

PDF 4 KURD

بینرابیت	*bînrâbe(t)*	بینرابن	*bînrâbin*
نەبینرابم	*nábînrâbim*	نەبینرابین	*nábînrâbîn*

Past Conditional Passive (‘had I been seen’)

ببینرامایە	*bibînrâmâya*	ببینرایینایە	*bibînrâynâya*
ببینرایتایە	*bibînrâytâya*	ببینرانایە	*bibînrânâya*
ببینراتایە	*bibînrâtâya*	ببینرانایە	*bibînrânâya*
نەبینرامایە	*nábînrâmâya*	نەبینرایینایە	*nábînrâynâya*

PDF 4 KURD

Synopsis of Tenses and Moods

	INTRANSITIVE	TRANSITIVE	PASSIVE
infinitive	چوون *chûn* to go	بانگ کردن *bâng kirdin* to invite	بانگ کران *bâng krân* to be invited
past	چووم *chûm* I went	بانگم کرد *bângim kird* I invited him/her[1]	بانگ کرام *bâng krâm* I was invited
past habitual	دەچووم *dachûm* I used to go	بانگم دەکرد *bângim dakird* I used to invite him	بانگ دەکرام *bâng dakrâm* I used to be invited
pres. perf.	چووم *chûwim* I have gone	بانگم کردووە *bângim kirdûa* I have invited him	بانگ کراوم *bâng krâwim* I have been invited
past perf.	چووبووم *chûbûm* I had gone	بانگم کردبوو *bângim kirdibû* I had invited him	بانگ کرابووم *bâng krâbûm* I had been invited
present	دەچم *(d)achim* I('ll) go	بانگ دەکەم *bâng (d)akam* I('ll) invite	بانگ دەکرێم *bâng (d)akrem* I am (will be) invited
pres. subj.	بچم *bichim* that I go	بانگ بکەم *bâng bikam* that I invite	بانگ بکرێم *bâng bikrem* that I be invited
past subj.	چووبم *chûbim* that I have gone	بانگم کردبێت *bângim kirdibe(t)* that I have invited him	بانگ کرابم *bâng krâbim* that I have been invited

---

[1] Because of the ergative nature of the past tenses, a 3rd-person singular object is built into the verb.

PDF 4 KURD

past cond. I	بچوومایە *bichûmâya*	بانگم بکردایە *bângim bikirdâya*	بانگ بکرامایە *bâng bikrâmâya*
past cond. II	(بـ)چووبام *(bi)chûbâm* had I gone	بانگم (بـ)کردبا *bângim (bi)kirdibâ* had I invited him	بانگ (بـ)کرابام *bâng (bí)krâbâm* had I been invited
irrealis (= past habitual)	دەچووم *(d)achûm* I would have gone	بانگم دەکرد *bângim (d)akird* I would have invited him	بانگ دەکرام *bâng (d)akrâm* I would have been invited

Conditional Sentence Types

present/future possible (present subjunctive or simple past indicative protasis, indicative apodosis)

ئەگەر بچێت (چوو)، دەیانبینێت.	*Agar biche(t)* (or *chû), dayânbîne(t).*	If he goes, he'll see them.
ئەگەر بچیتە (چوویتە) کوردستان، فێری کوردی دەبی.	*Agar bíchîtà* (or *chûytà) Kurdistân, fer i kurdî dabî.*	If you go to Kurdistan, you'll learn Kurdish.

past possible (past subjunctive protasis, indicative apodosis)

ئەگەر لەوێ وەفر باریبێ، نایەن.	*Agar l'awe wafr bârîbe, nâyen.*	If it has snowed there, they won't be coming.
ئەگەر چووبێ، نازانم کەی چووە دەرێ.	*Agar chûbe, nâzânim kay chûà darè.*	If he has gone, I don't know when he went out.
ئەگەر چووبیتە کوردستان، دەبێ فێری کوردی بی.	*Agar chûbîtà Kurdistân, dabe fer i kurdî bibî.*	If you have gone to Kurdistan, you must have learned Kurdish.
ئەگەر نەچووبیتە کوردستان، ناتوانی فێری کوردی بی.	*Agar náchûbîtà Kurdistân, nâtwânî fer i kurdî bibî.*	If you haven't gone to Kurdistan, you can't have learned Kurdish.

contrafactual (past conditional protasis, past habitual apodosis)

PDF 4 KURD

ئەگەر بچووایە دەیدیتن.	*Agar bichûâya, daydîtin.*	If he had gone, he would have seen them./ If he were to go, he would see them.
ئەگەر بچوویتایە کوردستان، فێری کوردی دەبووی.	*Agar bíchûytâya Kurdistân, fer i kurdî dabûy.*	If you had gone to Kurdistan, you would have learned Kurdish.
ئەگەر نەچوویتایە کوردستان، فێری کوردی نەدەبووی.	*Agar náchûytâya Kurdistân, fer i kurdî nádabûy.*	If you hadn't gone to Kurdistan, you wouldn't have learned Kurdish.

PDF 4 KURD

Conversion Table for the Sorani and Kurmanji Alphabets

Recently there have been attempts, particularly on the internet and on the part of Kurds influenced by speakers of Kurmanji Kurdish, to write Sorani in the Latin-based Kurmanji alphabet. The conversion is as follows:

Sorani	Sorani Arabic	Kurmanji
a	ه	*e*
â	ا	*a*
b	ب	*b*
ch	چ	*ç*
d	د	*d*
e	ێ	*ê*
f	ف	*f*
g	گ	*g*
gh	غ	*x*
h	ح، ه	*h*
i	ـ	*i*
î	ی	*î*
j	ج	*c*
k	ک	*k*
kh	خ	*x*
l	ل	*l*
ł	ڵ	*ll*
m	م	*m*
n	ن	*n*
o	ۆ	*o*
p	پ	*p*
q	ق	*q*
r	ر	*r*
ř	ڕ	*rr*
s	س	*s*
sh	ش	*ş*
t	ت	*t*
u	و	*u*
û	وو	*û*
v	ڤ	*v*

PDF 4 KURD

CONVERSION TABLE FROM SORANI TO KURMANJI

w	و	*w*
y	ی	*y*
z	ز	*z*
zh	ژ	*j*
ʻ	ع	*(not indicated)*

In writing Sorani in the Kurmanji alphabet, a one-to-one correspondence is observed. The *i* of the *izâfa* after consonants is written as *î* joined directly to the preceding word, but after vowels it is usually written as *y*, as in *ray giştî* for رای گشتی *râ i gishtî* ‘public opinion’ and *zarawey zanistî* for زاراوەی زانستی *zârâwa i zânistî* ‘scientific language.’ An example of such transcribed text is given below:

> Ber le Sedam Husên hîç berpirsêkî Êraqî newêrawe îmza le ser rêkkewtinêk bikat ke otonomî bidate kurd, ewîş le 11-î adarî 1970 rêkkewtinname benawbangekey adarî legell Mela Mistefa Barzanî mor kird, tefsîrî ciyaciya bo karekey (cêgirî berrêz) dekira. Hendê deyanut be rastî deyewê ew birîne qûlley cestey Êraq tîmar bikat, hendêkî dîkeş deyanut deyewê piştgîrî hêzî serbazîy bo xoy misoger bikat û bîxate jêr rikêfî xoyewe, diway ewey le biwarekanî emnî û rageyandin û hizbî da ew pallpiştiyey misoger kirdibû.[1]

In Arabic script the passage is as follows:

> بەر لە سەدام حوسێن هیچ بەرپرسێکی عێراقی نەوێراوە ئیمزا لە سەر رێککەوتنێک بکات کە ئۆتۆنۆمی بداتە کورد، ئەویش لە ١١ی ئاداری ١٩٧٠ رێککەوتننامە بەناوبانگەکەی ئاداری لەگەڵ مەلا مستەفا بارزانی مۆر کرد، تەفسیری جیاجیا بۆ کارەکەی (جێگری بەڕێز) دەکرا. هەندێ دەیانوت بە راستی دەیەوێ ئەو برینە قووڵەی جەستەی عێراق تیمار بکات، هەندێکی دیکەش دەیانوت دەیەوێ پشتگیری هێزی سەربازیی بۆ خۆی مسۆگەر بکات و بیخاتە ژێر رکێفی خۆیەوە، دوای ئەوەی لە بوارەکانی ئەمنی و راگەیاندن و حزبی‌دا ئەو پاڵپشتی‌یەی مسۆگەر کردبوو.

An example of a slightly different form of transcription sometimes used on the internet is as follows:

> Ke dellín zimaní Kurdí, mebest ew zimaneye ke ésta Kurd qisey pédeken. Gelé zimanwan u rojh hellatnasí henderí (ferengí) degell zimaní Kurdí xerék búne, zurbey ew zanayaney ke be shéweyékí gishtí ya taybetí le zimaní Kurdí duwawin gutúyane ke em zimane le biney zimanekaní Hínd

---

[1] Taken from the internet at www.kerkuk-kurdistan.com/hevpeyvinek.asp?ser=1& cep=4&nnimre=281).

PDF 4 KURD

u Urupayí u binemalley Hínd u Éraní u le xézane zimaní Éraní ye u degell zimaní Farsí xizmayetí nizíkí heye. Ja zimaní Kurdí ke ewe rewishtí con peyda buwe? Ashkiraye zimaní hemú willaté zimaní daníshtiwaní willateke debé, eger rodawekaní méjhúyí all u gorrékí neteweyíyan le willatekeda pék nehénabé ewa zimanekeysh her zimaní daníshtiwekaní koní willatekeye u pécewaney emesh pécewane debé. Ja bizanín babeteke bo zimaní Kurdí cone?[1]

In Arabic script, this text is as follows:

کە دەڵێن زمانی کوردی، مەبەست ئەو زمانەیە کە ئێستا کورد قسەی پێدەکەن. گەلێ زمانوان و رۆژهە
ڵاتناسی هەندەری (فەرەنگی) دەگەڵ زمانی کوردی خەریک بوونە، زوربەی ئەو زانایانەی کە بە شێوە
یەکی گشتی یا تایبەتی لە زمانی کوردی دواون گوتوویانە کە ئەم زمانە لە بنەی زمانەکانی هندوئوروپایی و
بنەماڵەی هندوئێرانی و لە خێزانە زمانی ئێرانی‌یە و دەگەڵ زمان فارسی خزمایەتی نزیکی هەیە. جا زمانی
کوردی کە ئەوە رەوشتی چۆن پەیدا بووە؟ ئاشکرایە زمانی هەموو وڵاتێ زمانی دانیشتوانی وڵاتەکە
دەبێ، ئەگەر رۆداوەکانی مێژوویی ئاڵوگۆڕێکی نەتەوەیی‌یان لە وڵاتەکەدا پێک نەهێنابێ ئەوا زمانەکەیش
هەر زمانی دانیشتوەکانی کۆنی وڵاتەکەیە و پێچەوانەی ئەمەش پێچەوانە دەبێ. جا بزانین بابەتەکە بۆ
زمانی کوردی چۆنە؟

---

[1] Taken from the website www.kurdishacademy.org/ku/history/history.html.